THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • DECEMBER 28, 2025 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

10.56 LAKH NAMES DELETED IN ASSAM SIR

The names of 10.56 lakh voters have been deleted after the Special Revision of electoral rolls in Assam, where assembly polls would be in less than six months. According to the integrated draft rolls released by the Election Commission on Saturday, the state has 2,51,09,754 voters, excluding 93,021 D-Voters or doubtful voters. Additionally, the names of 10,56,291 voters have been deleted due to death, shifting, or multiple entries. | P10

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100 Years of Bhima
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GONE IN TWO DAYS: ENGLAND WIN BOXING DAY ASHES TEST

As Ben Stokes and Co beat Australia in the fourth Test within two days, Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch has come under the scanner

VISITORS END 18-MATCH WINLESS STREAK IN OZ

Having already lost the series, England ended an 18-match winless streak in Australia and beat the home side by four wickets in the fourth Ashes Test at the MCG on Saturday. After Perth, where the visitors lost in two days, this was yet another two-day finish in the series. It was the first time since 1912 that multiple two-day results have occured in a series | P13

NOT A GOOD LOOK FOR TEST CRICKET

- Both Ben Stokes and Steve Smith expressed concern over the quality of the pitch, which had about 10 mm grass at the start of the match. As many as 20 wickets fell on Day 1 and another 16 on Day 2
- Only 852 balls were bowled in the Melbourne Test - the tenth fewest in a completed match - only five more than the Perth Test

4th
TWO-DAY TEST EVER IN AUSTRALIA SO FAR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

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Cong to launch nationwide 'save MGNREGA' movement from Jan 5

At CWC meet, first after Bihar drubbing, Rahul hopes the entire Oppn would join campaign

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Saturday announced it will launch a nationwide mass movement from January 5 against the Centre's attempts to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), drawing parallels with the pushback that led to the repeal of the three farm laws.

The decision was taken at a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting here, which also resolved to oppose any move to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the rural job scheme and to convert workers' legally guaranteed rights into what the party termed a government dole.

In a resolution, the CWC said the Congress would "protect MGNREGA and the rights of India's workers" and would take the issue to "every last village" across the country.

After a nearly three-hour CWC meeting, the first one after the Bihar poll debacle, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the party will lead the 'MGNREGA Bachao Abhiyan' from January 5, and a detailed plan will be announced soon under which rallies will be held across the country.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, ahead of the CWC meeting in New Delhi on Saturday | SEKHAR YADAV

In cryptic post, Digvijaya hails BJP

Congress MP Digvijaya Singh triggered a row Saturday after publicly praising the organisational strength of the BJP and RSS. In a post on X, Singh shared PM Narendra Modi's old picture seated near L K Advani, and said "... the grassroots 'swayamsevak' of RSS and worker of Jan Sangh @BJP4India sat on the floor at the feet of leaders and became the CM of a state and PM? This is the power of the organization." | P9

Addressing a press conference, Kharge said MGNREGA was a visionary UPA legislation appreciated globally. The scheme was named after Mahatma Gandhi due to its impact, he said. "Repealing MGNREGA is an insult to Mahatma Gandhi," he added, calling it an attack on the Right to Work.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi targeted the BJP government, alleging that "the PM carried out a devastating attack on states and the poor, much like demonetisation." He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "singlehandedly destroying" the MGNREGA scheme without consulting his Cabinet or states and without studying the matter, terming it an attack on the democratic structure that will ruin the rural economy.

The Congress, Rahul said, has vowed to resist the government's action and expressed confidence that the entire Opposition would join the movement. He linked the decision to scrap MGNREGA to the decimation of Indian labour, saying it guaranteed a minimum floor below which labour could not fall.

"It is going to cause tremendous pain to the weaker sections, to Adivasis, Dalits, OBCs, poor general castes, and minorities," Rahul alleged.

In his opening remarks, Kharge alleged collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission of India and accused the government of misusing the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax department, and the CBI.

Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa (seated) questions officials of a GP in Srinivasapura taluk of Kolar district

Upa Lokayukta files plaints against all 25 GPs in Srinivasapura

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

FOR the first time, Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa has registered suo motu complaints against all the 25 grama panchayats (GPs) of Srinivasapura taluk in Kolar district for rampant maladministration and corruption. This is the first such action taken by the Karnataka Lokayukta in its history. Justice Veerappa's action follows his surprise visits to the gram panchayats on September 30 and December 2. He has brought the entire system, including the district administration, taluk panchayats and GPs, under the scanner now.

This is just the beginning and he plans to initiate further action in districts like Tumakuru and Mandya, to bring reforms at GPs, taluk and zilla panchayats to help the needy, fix accountability and responsibility.

The fundamental issues being examined by Justice Veerappa are cleanliness, maintenance of drains, drinking water supply, street lights, solid waste management, preservation of water bodies from pollution and encroachment, and illegal mining as each receives Rs 1.5-2 crore every year from the state government.

The complaints have been registered against panchayat development officers, secretaries, bill collectors, data entry operators, technical assistants, assistant executive engineers of rural drinking water and sanitation and junior engineers of panchayat raj engineering division of GPs. The complaint has also been filed against Sarvesh K, Executive Officer, Srinivasapura Taluk Panchayat.

Two PDOs were suspended -- AN Shankarappa of Arikunte GP for misusing Rs 68 lakh and not releasing Rs 6.69 lakh to a contractor for borewell repair and Manjunath NK of Nambihalli GP for dereliction of duty. P7

Tiger kills watcher in Bandipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

A forest watcher was mauled to death by a tiger at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve just after midnight on Saturday.

The victim, **Sannahaida** (55), a member of the Jenu Kuruba community and a resident of Neralekuppe A Haadi in Hunsur, was killed while he was on patrol duty. He was serving as a forest watcher at the Maralahalla anti-poaching camp in the tiger reserve for over eight years.

Sannahaida and two other watchers — Girish and Kumar were patrolling on foot when the tiger hiding in a bush pounced on him around 12.45 am. The big cat dragged him for 15 metres, and let him go only when Girish and Kumar raised loud screams. The two tried to rescue their colleague, but Sannahaida died because of severe injuries he had suffered from the tiger's claws, forest officials said. Senior forest officials rushed to the spot after they were alerted and shifted the body to the Gundlupet Government Hospital.

Sannahaida had served at the Maralahalla and Olakallare anti-poaching camps and was an experienced hand in forest patrols. P7

20 injured in mob attack on popular rock band in B'desh

AGENCIES @ Dhaka

AT least 20 students were injured in a mob attack in Bangladesh that forced the cancellation of a concert by popular rock singer James, who has sung several hit Hindi film songs, organisers said.

The incident occurred late on Friday night in Faridpur, amid a recent spate of attacks on cultural institutions. In recent weeks, organisations such as Chhayanaut and Udichi Shilpi Goshthi in Dhaka have been vandalised.

James' concert was to mark the closing of Faridpur Zilla School's 185th anniversary celebrations. The programme was scheduled late at night on a temporary stage within the school premises, news portal tbsnews.net reported.

However, just before it was due to begin, a group of outsiders tried to force entry after being turned away, throwing bricks and stones and attempting to seize the stage.

Students resisted the attackers, and at least 20 were injured by flying debris, according to organisers. However, Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Azmir Hossain said the exact casualty count was yet to be confirmed.

A videograb of the mob attack in Faridpur of Bangladesh that left fans injured at a rock concert

"The number of injured in the attack is not yet known. We are trying to gather detailed information," he said. Amid the volatile situation, organising committee convener Mustafizur Rahman Shamim cancelled the show on orders from the Faridpur district administration, *The Daily Star* reported.

James, lead singer of Bangladeshi rock band Nagar Baul, has sung in several Bollywood films, including *Gangster*, *Woh Lamhe*, and *Life in a... Metro*.

Rajibul Hasan Khan, convener of the programme's publicity and media sub-committee, said the attack's motives remained unclear.

X'mas decorations at Ahmedabad mall vandalised

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IN the latest attack targeting Christmas celebrations in India, workers of a Hindu outfit vandalised decorations at a prominent shopping mall in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

According to the police, four to five workers associated with a Hindu outfit entered the mall, located near Thaltej on Ahmedabad's SG Highway, headed straight to the central atrium, and pulled down Christmas trees, causing panic among visitors.

"They demanded that all Christmas trees and related decorations at the mall be removed immediately," a police officer said.

The mall authorities tried to calm them and explained that the decorations were part of the year-end festivities. "Despite repeated requests, they vandalised the decorations, following which the police were informed," the officer said. Those involved were detained on the spot and security inside the mall was briefly tightened.

The incident comes amid reports of widespread attacks on Christmas celebrations in various parts of the country.

Earlier this week, the Federation of Parents' Associations, along with a saffron outfit, protested against Christmas celebrations and holidays in schools in Ahmedabad.

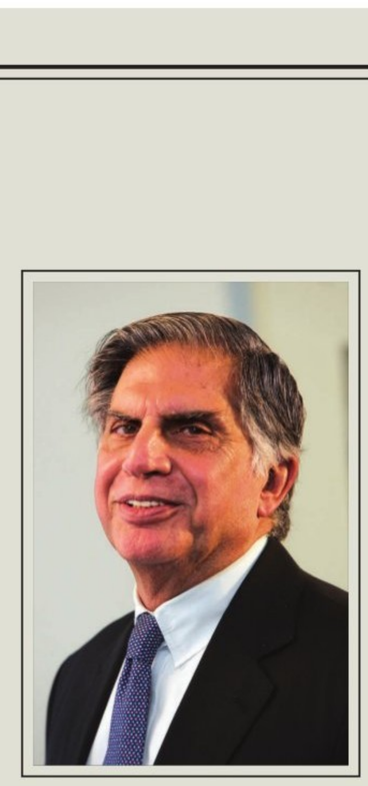
EXPRESS READ

11-yr-old girl hurt as vigilantes block dad's bike to check for beef

Mangaluru: An 11-year-old girl was injured when two people stopped her father's two-wheeler with their SUV for allegedly transporting beef on Malali-Narlapadavi Road in Mangaluru on Saturday | P7

Man ends life in Nagpur hotel a day after wife dies by suicide

Bengaluru: A day after a homemaker died by suicide in Ramamurthy Nagar, her 29-year-old husband ended his life at a hotel in Sonegoan in Nagpur, Maharashtra. His mother who attempted suicide is battling for life | P5



PADMA VIBHUSHAN
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an icon of industry and a humanitarian,
on the occasion of his 88th birth anniversary.

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ALLU ARJUN 11th ACCUSED IN PUSHPA 2 STAMPEDE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

TELUGU star Allu Arjun has been named as the 11th accused in the chargesheet filed by the Hyderabad Police in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case.

The incident, which occurred on December 4, 2024, claimed the life of 35-year-old M Revathi, while her nine-year-old son, Sritej, sustained critical injuries. Sritej continues to remain under treatment more than a year after the stampede.

The chargesheet filed on December 24 says the incident was due to "serious lapses in planning, crowd control and security arrangements during the event".

Allu Arjun

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar confirmed that the chargesheet lists 23 accused, including Allu Arjun, his manager Josya Bhatla Santosh Kumar, another manager Sharath Chandra Naidu, fans' association in-charge Tatipamula Vinay Kumar, and his personal security guards Cheruku Ramesh and Sriramula Raju. Several bouncers deployed at the venue are also named.

Theatre owners and partners, including Agamati Ram Reddy (owner), M Sandeep, M Sumeeth, and others, were booked for allegedly failing to ensure safety arrangements, while the event organiser, Talla Kiran Kumar Goud, is accused of lapses in execution and supervision. Of the total accused, 14 were arrested, while nine secured anticipatory bail and were served notices, police said.

The stampede occurred as fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the actor during the premiere.

Probe: No security measures

The probe found that no proper crowd management plan or adequate security measures were put in place

ALMANAC TODAY
● **Sunday:** 28.12.2025 ● **Year:** Vishwavasu ● **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
● **Ritu:** Himanth ● **Masa:** Pausha ● **Paksha:** Sukla ● **Tithi:** Ashtami 7.24 am
● **Nakshatra:** Revathi 3.52 am ● Moon in Mesha Rashi ● **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
● **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm ● **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 13°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST Scattered clouds
Sunrise 06.40 am | Sunset 06.02 pm | Moonrise 12.29 am | Moonset 12.16 am

Written, illustrated, designed, edited & published by Manavattira Somanna, 'Chandooka' celebrates and promotes legendary Kodava folklore & the community's unique tradition & culture

KODAVA FOLKLORE NOW IN COMICS

PRAJNA GR @ Madikeri

AMAR Chitrakatha, Phantom, Mandrake. Tinkle, Chacha Choudhary, Chandamama, Pinki and many other popular comics have become a thing of the past, but gladly have reappeared in their new avatar in digital forms.

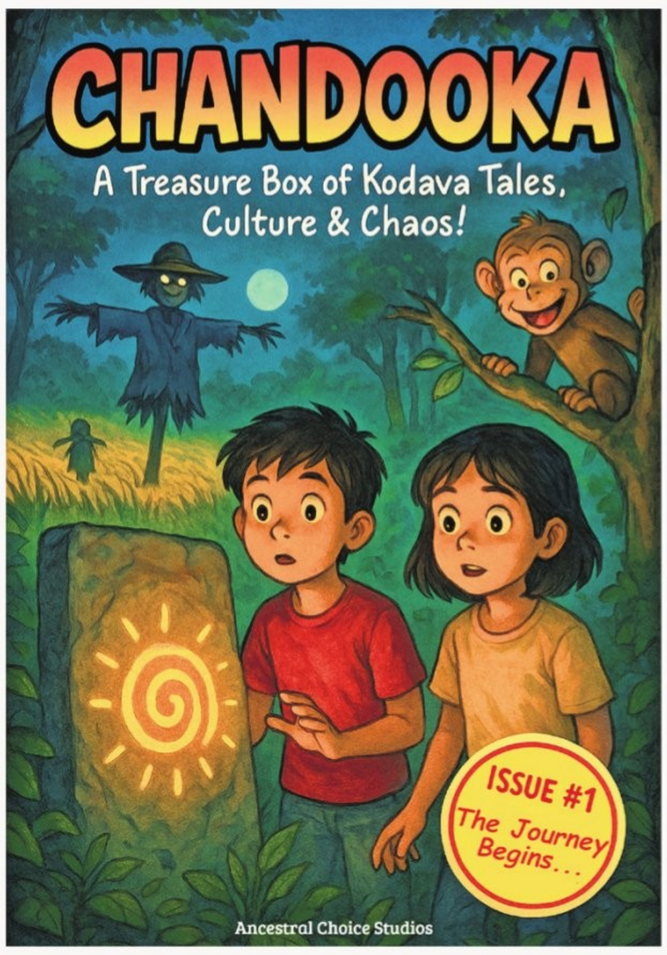
An artist from Kodagu is trying to reintroduce the magic of comics among children through his 'Chandooka'.

In Kodava, 'Chandooka' means a traditional wooden box in which valuables are kept. So, what's special about Chandooka? Written, illustrated, designed, edited and published by Manavattira Somanna, it celebrates and promotes legendary Kodava folklore and the unique tradition and culture of the community.

Somanna wants to introduce this to Gen Z and Gen Alpha in the era of AI. "As a kid from the 1990s, I grew up hearing Kodava tales from my grandparents. Now, kids no longer live in their native land with their grandparents and stay away, but also from the cultural practices of the community," he said.

While it was easy for millennials to know their cultural roots, it is not the same with Gen Z and Gen Alpha. "The best way I could reach them without being preachy or boring was through comics," he said.

'Chandooka' is an enjoyable read for non-Kodavas too who want to know more about the community's unique culture and tradition. "I want to show to the world Kodagu is not just about booze, hills and coffee," he said.



While it was easy for millennials to know their cultural roots, it is not the same with Gen Z and Gen Alpha. So, the best way I could reach them without being preachy or boring was through my comic book.

-Manavattira Somanna, Author, 'Chandooka'

The first edition of 'Chandooka' was released in September and its second in December. It garnered the interest of several children and parents alike. A full-time bank employee who is also well-versed in digital marketing, Somanna is open for collaborations. 'Chandooka' has several sections, including culture, history, current status, adventure, festival and Kodava lipi (script) sections. It includes sections from the historical 'Pattole Palame' book by Nadikerianda Chinnappa, where the festivities, ornaments, rituals and other unique practices of the community are detailed. The festivities and other rituals are explained in the most interesting format, which will help children get hooked to it, Somanna said.

"One can learn everything about the Kodava community bit by bit." From learning Kodava language to trekking across the hillocks of the district, 'Chandooka' has found its niche audience who have offered positive feedback. "Stories do not fade because they are weak. They fade because we stop returning to them. If we do not remember, who will tell our kids? One day, we will be elders and what will we pass on? Chandooka is not just a comic book, but a time travel story that helps connect kids with their roots," he said.

SNEAK PEEK

Flashback to Ajja's Childhood...
This pendant hasn't been seen in 60 years...
... not since that stormy night...
...when the temple glowed...
THE TIME TRAVEL – CHAPTER 1
Race you to Ajja's tree, siri
Only if you don't cheat this time, som
SPLASH SPLASH
This tree's older than Ajja... maybe even time itself!
Older trees have older secrets, children...
Oooh, is that your morning riddle again, Ajja?
NELLH THAATA
A soul too stubborn to leave their land!
If you're planning mischief, don't let it lead to Nell Thaata's field."
What's so special about that old patch?
That patch gave us rice when rain didn't.
A ghost farmer?
More than a ghost. A promise.
11
15
Some comics that capture the Kodava culture

Arkavathi, Hesaraghatta Lake must be revived: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOREST, Environment and Ecology Minister **Eshwar B Khandre** on Saturday issued a directive to the Forest and Environment departments to take steps to revive the polluted Arkavathi river.

The river, which was once Bengaluru's lifeline, is now polluted, he said and stressed the need to revive it.

He also directed the officials to ensure that the Hesaraghatta Lake, which can provide water to around 10 lakh people, is rejuvenated.

Khandre, who inspected the Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve, said along with the conservation of grassland, the reserve area should be protected. Cattle grazing should be allowed there so as to ensure that the land is not grabbed. Panchayat members and locals should extend cooperation to officials to protect the 5,678-acre grassland.

The minister said saplings of fruit-bearing trees should be planted at the reserve.

He directed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Meenakshi Negi to prepare an action plan to get CSR funds for protection and development of the reserve. He instructed the officials of the Minor Irrigation Department and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to ensure that water bodies in the region are pollution free.

EXPRESS READ

BSWML tracks furniture factory dumping industrial waste near police quarters

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) officials tracked down a furniture factory for dumping industrial waste near Silk Board Police Quarters. Based on evidence, the engineers, along with marshals on Saturday traced the location of a person identified as Mayudin Khan at his factory premises in Jayanagar East and made him pay Rs 40,000 for the waste dump. In another incident, a housekeeping staff of V-Care in Mall of Asia was caught for littering waste on roadside near Sahakar Nagar and imposed a penalty of Rs 20,000.

IFFCO's nano fertiliser plant inaugurated at Devanahalli

Bengaluru: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited, a leading co-operative in the fertiliser sector, inaugurated its state-of-the-art nano fertiliser plant at Devanahalli by IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani. During the inauguration, Sanghani inspected the entire facility in detail and reviewed the production process, quality standards and technological capabilities of nano fertilisers. "The plant marks a major step forward in realising the vision of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The modern plant spread over 12 acres is capable of producing 2 lakh bottles of Nano Urea Plus per day," said Sanghani.

KOGILU DEMOLITION

Panel orders field study to protect affected children

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

NEARLY a week after the demolition of slum homes at Fakeer Layout and Wasim Layout in Kogilu near Yelahanka, which rendered over 300 families with comorbid conditions out in the biting cold, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Chairman Shashidhar Kosambe visited the rubbled site near Yelahanka. He assessed the situation post the demolition and directed the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Child Development Programme Officer (CDPO) to conduct a 3-day field study from tomorrow.

Kosambe said that he directed the officials to issue a notice to the civic body to seek details of demolition and the persons impacted by it. "I interacted with dwellers here, and many are out in make-shift tents, and many families have children, who have been enrolled in nearby government schools. All these children missed their school due to the demolition. Hence, I have directed the CWC, DCPO and CDPO to make a comprehensive report of the total number of children on the site, number of children going to school, their anemic condition, if any. Based on the report, provisions will be made to accomodate the impacted children back to school, and continue their education. In case the families are unable to take care of small children, efforts will be made to put them in Bala Mandira for better care," said Kosambe.

The demolition was conducted by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Authority (BSWML), a parastatal agency under Great Bengaluru Authority, which was preparing to build an integrated plant to produce bio gas, animal, and coconut rendering unit at 15 acres of quarry land that was given to the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2015.

"The land is a quarry used for disposing of solid waste and is extremely unsafe for human occupation. Unauthorised AC-sheet houses on the dumpsite were removed on December 20, 2025. Rehabilitation facilities have been arranged," said Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao.

Giri Nath addresses issue of harassment to staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ADDITIONAL Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, **Tushar Giri Nath**, held a meeting with members of the Greater Bengaluru Authority Officers' and Employees' Association on Saturday to discuss their concerns over a software glitch in generating e-khata and delays, and also over alleged differences between Special Commissioner Munish Moudgil and revenue staff.

Association president A Amruth Raj said the association had sent a letter to Giri Nath and all their concerns were aired during the meeting. "The ACS resolved the issue. The primary issue of staff getting scolded by top officials over e-khata and delay was addressed.

The ACS said that he will hold talks with NIC to fix the softwareglitch," he added. Giri Nath said the primary concern has been addressed, and the revenue staff have been told that the software glitch will be fixed, and they will not be put under pressure.

The association asked the ACS to look into the suspension of Deputy Commissioner DK Babu, and revenue officer Varalakshmi by Moudgil over a video conference involving all the top officials early morning.

"The ACS said a notice has to be issued to seek their explanation, and based on it, action will have to be taken. The ACS assured us that he would look into the issue of 'video conference' in the early morning hours. After the intervention of ACS, the GBA revenue staff would not like to pursue the issue further and concentrate on their work," said Amruth Raj.

The association had appealed to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar to intervene to look into the issue of harassment.

Moudgil released a press statement on Friday, stating that he did not use abusive language, while action against certain revenue staff was based on evidence. The allegation against him by the association is to protect the erring revenue staff, he added.

Farmers to meet in Delhi over MSP Guarantee Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A national-level meeting of farmer leaders will be held in New Delhi on January 8 to decide the future course of the nationwide farmer movement on the implementation of the Minimum Support Price Guarantee Act for agricultural produce. In case the government drags its feet on the Act, a nationwide agitation will be held, said Jagjit Singh Dhalewala, national leader of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha.

"The Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and the Supreme Court-appointed High Powered Committee submitted reports, suggesting that the MSP Guarantee Act should be implemented for the welfare of the farming community. However, the Central Government is not working in this direction," he said.

"Our Prime Minister is advocating Swadeshi and Atma Nirbhar operations, but on the other hand, the Centre is importing agricultural produce worth over Rs 2.5 lakh crore every year. Farmers are not getting the correct minimum support price (MSP) for their crops, causing huge financial losses to the farming community. Over 7,00,00 farmers have committed suicide because of the wrong policies of successive governments," he said.

Kuruburu Shanthakumar, Sanyukta Kisan Morcha leader from Karnataka, said the a judge from the Karnataka High Court gave a befitting warning to sugar factory owners for harassing farmers by not giving sufficient rates for their produce and obtaining court stay whenever the government passed orders in favour of the farming community. "It is a welcome development. At least now, sugar factory owners should pay the fixed amount to farmers," he said. "Farmers here are opposing the agriculture trade agreement between India and the US. The Centre should stay away from this agreement," Shanthakumar said.

Students from city should learn about farmers' lives: DKS

Bengaluru: Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Saturday directed the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, to design a two-day tour programme to educate urban school children about farmers' lives. Addressing the gathering at a Farmers' Day event held on the GKVK campus, he said, "Farmers are the backbone of the nation, and their hardwork, sweat and commitment are India's true wealth. They are the guardians of India's food security. Despite numerous challenges, they continue to work tirelessly to feed the nation. Agriculture is indispensable to life." Agriculture Minister and UAS Pro-Chancellor N Cheluvarayaswamy said Karnataka has emerged as a national leader in agriculture, witnessing several innovative initiatives.

702 km! MLA Suresh Kumar cycles to reach Kanyakumari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RAJAJINAGAR MLA Suresh Kumar along with a group of cyclists from Bengaluru successfully completed a 702-km endurance ride to Kanyakumari, reaching the southern tip of the country in around 37 hours, marking the 51st anniversary of his cycling journey first undertaken in 1974.

Speaking after reaching the southern tip, Suresh Kumar said that the Rajajinagar Pedal Power team, which began its journey from Basaveshwar Nagar on Tuesday morning, comprised 12 cyclists along with a small support crew. The ride revisited a landmark moment in his life, as 51 years ago, he had first cycled with two friends Venkatesh and Somanath. He recalled that he and his friends had planned to mark the 50th anniversary by cycling again to Kanyakumari, but due to health issues, it was not possible.

He described the journey as a major personal milestone and a testament to teamwork.

A man (27) died after he accidentally fell into a cement mixer at a concrete hollow block factory in Bidadi on Monday. He worked as a mixer operator. He was shifted to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The deceased is Vikas Kumar of Bihar. An FIR has been registered against factory owner Suresh and contractor S Murmu. The incident happened around 6.30 pm at Sri Ambika Cement Blocks Factory at Mallathahalli

Man ends life day after wife dies by suicide in city

Couple was just back from their honeymoon; dowry harassment case likely the trigger

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE suicide case of 26-year-old Ghanavi in Ramamurthy Nagar has taken an unusual turn as her 29-year-old husband Suraj has also died by suicide at a hotel in Sonegoan in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Suraj has taken the extreme step a day after his wife's demise. The incident came to light on Saturday. Even Suraj's mother, Jayanthi, who has attempted suicide, is battling for life. Suraj, his mother and brother Sanjay had escaped to Nagpur when Ghanavi was in the hospital on Wednesday. The Sonegoan police, who have registered a case of unnatural death, are corresponding with the Bengaluru police.

"Both Suraj and his mother were shifted to a hospital, where Suraj was declared dead on arrival, while the condition of Jayanthi, who is undergoing treatment, is unknown. The mother and son are suspected to have taken the extreme step out of fear after a complaint was registered at Ramamurthy Nagar police station against them over a dowry case under Section 80 of BNS. They are also suspected to have been under severe humiliation after their in-laws protested outside their Vidyaranyapura residence, accusing Suraj of being impotent," said an officer.

Suraj, working in an Indian quick-commerce company, married Ghanavi on October 29. Ghanavi, who was a B Com graduate, was a homemaker. The couple returned from their honeymoon in Sri Lanka on Sunday, within five days. Immediately after returning, Suraj's family asked her parents to take her back home. Upset over this, the woman had attempted suicide by hanging on Wednesday and succumbed on Thursday. They had also taken the body to Suraj's residence.

Ghanavi's mother, Rukmini, reacting to the media about Suraj's death, said that because of the greed of Jayanthi, both families have lost their children. "After my daughter's death, there were rumours about her. If that was the case, Suraj and his family must have approached the police instead of harassing my daughter. I had also requested my daughter to consider divorcing Suraj, but she did not listen," Rukmini added.

> **The mother and son are suspected to have taken the extreme step out of fear after a complaint was registered at Ramamurthy Nagar police station against them over a dowry case** —Officer

RARE FEAT

City docs perform full jaw reconstruction

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

Before and After

DOCTORS at a private hospital in Rajajinagar have successfully reconstructed the lower jaw of a patient aged over 50, whose mandible was almost completely destroyed by a rare bacterial infection named actinomycotic osteomyelitis.

Surgeons planned a full reconstruction using a custom-made titanium implant, a fibula bone from the patient's leg and replacement of both jaw joints after CT scans revealed that most of the jaw had been eaten away by the infection.

Doctors said it was one of the rarest of rare cases in India, as it involved reconstruction of the entire lower jaw along with both joints, using a custom implant. Advanced 3D imaging, personalised implant design and microsurgical techniques helped restore both the function and appearance of the jaw, highlighting a new way to treat severe jaw damage.

The surgery took 12 to 14 hours and involved two teams working at the same time. One team removed the damaged jaw, while the other prepared the fibula bone and attached it to the custom implant. The bone's blood supply was connected to the facial artery and internal jugular vein to keep it alive. The rebuilt jaw, including both joints, restored the patient's ability to speak and maintain facial appearance, they said.

After the surgery, the patient stayed in the hospital for 10 days. Jaw movements were restricted and food was given through a feeding tube. After 15 days, the patient began moving the jaw gradually and received physiotherapy and speech training. Six months later, the patient has regained normal jaw function, speech and facial appearance and has returned to everyday activities, the doctors said.

The surgery was performed by oral and maxillofacial reconstructive surgeon Dr Manjunath NM, head and neck oncology specialist Dr Ajay and oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr Sumukh.

WHAT DOCS ARE SAYING

Outpatient respiratory visits up 5x

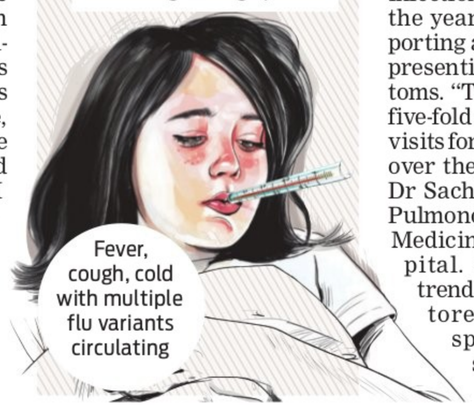
Rising pediatric cases

Elderly at higher risk, including pneumonia

20 30% OPD visits are influenza-like illness

20+ viral cases every day, mainly H3N2

Cold weather, travel, crowding driving spread



DO'S

1 Elderly should take influenza vaccination

2 Wear masks during travelling

3 Early consultation if symptoms persist

> **We are currently seeing around 20 cases of viral influenza and other infections, with H3N2 being the more common variant** — Dr Mahesh Kumar JM, internal medicine specialist at KIMS Hospital

BENGALURU HOSPITALS SEE INCREASE IN FLU SYMPTOMS

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

BENGALURU is witnessing a noticeable surge in seasonal influenza and other respiratory infections as the city heads into the year-end, with doctors reporting a sharp rise in patients presenting with flu-like symptoms. "There has been nearly a five-fold increase in outpatient visits for respiratory symptoms over the last few weeks," said Dr Sachin Kumar, director of Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine at Sakra World Hospital. He said the current trend is being closely monitored due to the rapid spread of the H3N2 strain. He added that hospitals are also seeing a significant rise in paediatric cases, with many children reporting symptoms.

"Around 20–30% of our outpatient visits are currently due to influenza-like illness," said Dr Koushik N, senior specialist Pulmonologist at Aster RV Hospital. While most cases remain mild and resolve within three to five days, he said elderly patients, immunocompromised individuals and those with comorbidities face a higher risk of complications, including pneumonia. "We are currently seeing around 20 cases of viral influenza and other infections, with H3N2 being the more common variant," said Dr Mahesh Kumar JM, internal medicine specialist at KIMS Hospital. Cold weather, year-end travel and crowding were contributing factors, he said.

The increase comes even as the Health Department has issued an advisory warning of a likely rise in influenza cases between January and March.

With people moving between cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi, Kerala, Chennai and other destinations, infections are being carried from one region to another and spreading rapidly after return. Emergency departments are also reporting a steady inflow of patients. "We are seeing patients almost every day with fever, cough and cold, with multiple influenza variants," said Dr Sruthi Bhaskaran, Head of Emergency Medicine at Vasavi Hospitals.

EXPRESS READ

Hubby stabs wife to death for working in parlour

Bengaluru: A 34-year-old woman, who worked at a beauty parlour, was allegedly murdered by her husband, who stabbed her multiple times on the neck with a tailoring scissors following a domestic dispute at their residence in Agrahara Layout in the Sampigehalli police station limits on Saturday. The deceased, Ayesha Siddiqui (34), was a masseuse at a beauty parlour. She had married the accused, Syed Jabi (42), a mechanic, three months ago. Siddiqui's first husband had died due to health complications. Jabi had also divorced his first wife. The police said the couple had an argument around 3 am over Siddiqui continuing to work at the parlour, which escalated and continued for several hours. In a fit of rage, Jabi allegedly stabbed her on the neck and other parts of her body with a tailoring scissors.

3 youth harass woman on road, arrested

Bengaluru: The Suddgunete Palya police have arrested three youths, including a minor, for allegedly harassing a woman on the road while she was heading home on her two-wheeler. The accused, who were riding triple on a scooter, followed the victim for more than two kilometres. The incident took place near BTM Layout on December 25. The accused are Shaikh Roshan (19), a resident of Patel Layout in Begur, and Ayaan (19), a resident of Old Gurappanapalya in BTM Layout. Both work at a chicken shop. The third accused is a minor residing on 12th Main Road, BTM First Stage. The victim, a 25-year-old television actor, was going home around 10 pm, when the three youths began following her, repeatedly disturbing her and creating a nuisance. A video of the incident went viral. The victim filed a complaint the following day, after which the police traced and arrested the three accused, including a minor. **ENS**

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A national-level meeting of farmer leaders will be held in New Delhi on January 8 to decide the future course of action of the nationwide farmer movement for the implementation of the Minimum Support Price Guarantee Act for agricultural produce

Karnataka in 2025 - miles to go, promises to keep

HARISH RAMASWAMY
Political analyst and former V-C, Raichur University

KARNATAKA is one of the few states keeping Congress alive and breathing as a national political party. Under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the 2025–26 budget promised growth in response to criticisms of bankruptcy resulting from the 'guarantees' that won the Congress its election (a 43% vote share and 135 seats).

With DKS driving the party and Siddaramaiah handling the government budget, all eyes were on how the state would meet the 7% growth target they had set. Luckily, adequate rainfall and promising agricultural outputs have helped greatly. Trade in services and growth in the industrial sector have kept the economic momentum of the state at sustainable levels. On top of all this, controlled inflation aided by stable food prices and bolstered fiscal performance led to a 7.7% growth in revenue collections. A report titled 'Mid-Year Review of State Finances' anticipates that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) will reach Rs 30,91,111 crore this year alone is a classic example of good economics.

The Congress government's success on this front has prompted its critiques to look elsewhere. They have attempted to showcase the government's failures and weaknesses despite loud cries of dissension and leadership change within their party. They have looked to the MUDA, to embezzlement in Valmiki and Bovi corporations, to dharmic riots in Mandya and Nagamangala, to fuelling farmers' agitations seeking a hike in sugarcane and maize prices, to the formation of an SIT for Dharmasthala, to the failure of the government's guarantee to deliver timely monetary assistance to beneficiaries etc.

Most of this punditry was of course the result of poor governance by the Congress, which clears the fact that good politics may ensure good economics but good economics may not ensure good politics. With a 13% increase in receipts and a drop in revenue deficit to 0.6%, and with 26,474 crore debt repaid by the state, the government is in a formidable position to defend criticisms of it as a guarantee government. A strong tax administration and renewed economic activity in the state have outwitted the governance failures and scams securing to the state the second rank in the country's gross GST collections in the first half of 2025-26 itself, thus helping the state's fiscal deficit to be projected at 2.95 percent of the GSDP. Controlling spending not beyond a third of the budget estimates and giving a notable increase in capital project expenditure has added to the state's wellbeing. But if all this spells the economics of a good year, the politics of it are severely lacking in wisdom and vision. The Congress is remarkably failing, time and again, to communicate its own strengths to the public thanks to this bickering within the party, involving nearly everyone up to the chief minister himself. Its ideology, though popular, has failed to impress the political pundits.

Despite its economic glories, it is these instances of poor governance that continue to cast a gloom on the people at every step of their life – from early morning milk deliveries to late evening alcohol consumption, from registering a house to fuelling a vehicle - and the people are vexed.

What should have been smart stewardship in the DK–Siddu government – with breakfast meetings and handshakes progressing the state while their power sharing was relegated to their drawing rooms – has instead seen DK's temple runs and Siddu's over-reliance on AHINDA to push SC/ST leaders as alternatives to his leadership.

Observers of politics have come to feel that these leaders from other communities are being played. Sessions in the Vikasa Soudha being dominated by accusations from both the ruling and opposition parties have done little to develop either Kittur or the Kalyana Karnataka region. It has exposed the hollowness of the promises politicians make.

The one thing that helped the unstructured politics in Karnataka this year has been the eyewash that was the caste census. It effectively burnt the hopes of many smaller communities looking for a political foothold. The limelight has stayed disproportionately on DK and Siddu with their MLA and cabinet colleagues left fighting for scraps. 'Real' development on the ground has remained invisible even as theoretically economics dominated the media at the state and national levels. The 'guarantee model', although replicated by other parties in other states, failed to showcase Karnataka in the right spirit. And that is where a need to restructure state politics arises. Congress has miles to go and still many promises to keep.

Finish Line 2025

POLITICS

2025: A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTIES AND CHURN

POLITICALLY, 2025 was a year of uncertainties, which at times appeared to have an impact on governance.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Congress's tallest mass leader with a commendable track record, appeared shaky and vulnerable, especially towards the end of the year, after his government completed its half-way mark of two-and-a-half years in office.

The leadership tussle dented his image and that of his government, but the CM was not in a position to confidently claim his continuation for a full five-year tenure. From being an assertive leader and the sole power centre during his previous tenure, from 2013 to 2018, he is now more accommodative dealing with multiple power centres. A senior Congress leader, holding a prominent position in the government, admits that there are at least three power centres – CM Siddaramaiah, DyCM & State Congress President DK Shivakumar and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

The politics of dinner meetings and backroom manoeuvrings started right at the beginning of the year, and it continued all through. As the cold war between the camps intensified over 'power-sharing', the party brass nudged the CM and DyCM to discuss the contentious issue over 'naati koli saaru' and 'idli & vada'. It turned out to be mere optics as the 'truce' was short-lived.

The party's central leaders' failure to end the debate exposed its inherent weakness and worsened the crisis. The leadership issue is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon. Kharge's remarks, "the confusion was created by local leaders, and they have to settle it...," added a new dimension.

As the political uncertainty reflected poorly on the administration, it lacked a whole-of-government approach. Some ministers strived towards bringing positive changes to their departments, while many others were just in a reactive mode or found wanting.

Ironically, despite enjoying an enviable majority in the assembly and implementing its flagship guarantee schemes with huge budgetary allocation, the government never appeared to be in total control of the narrative.

The poor handling of RCB's IPL victory celebrations and the knee-jerk reaction after the deadly stampede that claimed 11 lives of innocent cricket fans; response to sugarcane farmers' protest; ruling Congress MLAs questioning the government over the failing promise of development of North Karnataka region, some even demanding separate statehood; huge vacancies in government departments that depend on outsourced staff; and the delay or confusion in depositing Rs 2,000 Gruha Laxmi guarantee amount every month into the accounts of women heads of households, had all exposed the chinks in the administration, not to mention the ire over a slew of price hikes.

After facing criticism from dominant communities, the government binned the 2015 Socio-Economic Education Survey or caste census — a Rs 160-crore exercise — report submitted earlier this year, by citing it as a decade-old survey. Yet, just days before the decision on commissioning a new survey in the state was announced by Central Congress leaders in New Delhi, the CM had spoken in favour of the 2015 survey! That apart, the manner in which the new survey was done in a tearing hurry, giving stiff deadlines to teachers, the inclusion of questions that many, including the DyCM himself, termed as too personal; and sub-caste classification raised several concerns. More importantly, the very need for the new survey with an estimated expenditure of over Rs 425 came to be questioned as the Union Government had already announced the inclusion of a comprehensive caste enumeration in the 2027 census.

The government also took flak over pot-holed roads in Bengaluru, the poor condition of footpaths and disposal of solid waste, though the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the splitting of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was termed as a major administrative decision. Local body polls in the state capital and other parts of the state remain long overdue.

Bengaluru provided a platform to launch Rahul Gandhi's campaign against alleged malpractice in electoral rolls, and the ruling party alleged voter fraud in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. KN Rajanna, Cooperatives Minister, was dropped from the cabinet for stating that the Congress was in power in the state when electoral rolls for the 2024 LS polls were prepared.

To back Rahul Gandhi's "Vote Theft" campaign against the Election Commission, the state government has declared that it would use ballot papers, not EVMs, in the local body polls.

Not just in Congress, the uncertainty over the leadership issue continued in the BJP, too, as the party is yet to announce its decision on continuing BY Vijayendra as its state president. By all indications, he is likely to continue. The BJP's alliance partner, Janata Dal (Secular), recently celebrated 25 years of its formation. The party helmed by former PM HD Deve Gowda is grooming his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy as next-generation leader.

Overall, as the curtains fall on a politically eventful year, the churn within parties continues.

BJP criticises CM, Rahul over Foxconn claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP MPs Basavaraj Bommai and Lahar Singh Siroya on Saturday criticised Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for taking credit for Foxconn's investments and job creation in Karnataka.

Bommai said the Foxconn MoU was signed on March 3, 2023, during his tenure as the CM, after detailed discussions with Foxconn Chairman Young Liu. The BJP government allotted 300 acres of land near Bengaluru International Airport to facilitate the investment that was expected to create 1 lakh jobs, Bommai said and also tagged a video of his meeting with Liu.

"When governance fails, staking claim for others' work becomes convenient," Bommai responded to Siddaramaiah's remarks that if Make in India is truly a success, why can't BJP's "double-engine" states match what Karnataka has delivered.

Siroya said whenever the Congress has been in power in Karnataka, they have lost investment to neighbouring states. "If a white paper is released, it will be clear how many companies chose to invest outside Karnataka during Siddaramaiah's first term as CM and at present. Can Siddaramaiah's government claim any vision other than splitting up castes, promoting his AHINDA agenda and creating chaos by promoting urban-Naxals?" he asked.

Siroya said when the US President Donald Trump called India a "dead economy", the first person who rushed to endorse it was Rahul Gandhi. "Whenever he has gone abroad, he has spoken ill of India and Indian businesses. Now, without batting an eyelid, they claim the credit for Foxconn's investment and job creation in Karnataka," he said.

CM MAY MEET RAHUL IN JANUARY, SEEK NOD FOR CABINET RESHUFFLE

To leave for T'puram on Tuesday, hold talks with Venugopal as prelude to meet with Rahul

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah could not propose his plan for a cabinet reshuffle to Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on the sidelines of a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. He, however, had a word with Rahul's Man Friday and AICC General Secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal and conveyed his message. "The CWC mainly discussed the Central government changing the MNREGA into VB-G Ram G. It was decided to launch MGNREGA bachao andolan across the country from January 5," he told reporters in Delhi.

Siddaramaiah, who went with his coterie of ministers including Byrati Suresh and Dr HC Mahadevappa on Friday, returned soon after attending the CWC meeting.

He is scheduled to leave for Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday evening and will likely meet Venugopal on Wednesday again during the 93rd Sivagiri pilgrimage meeting at Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala, Kerala, organised by Sri Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust.

His talks with Venugopal will be a prelude to his meeting with Rahul, who is leaving for Europe on Sunday, and returning after January 9.

On Thursday, he took part in the dinner hosted by Energy Minister KJ George at the latter's farmhouse on Thursday at which Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa and Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh too were present. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, considered a member of the Siddaramaiah camp, did not attend the dinner. Just before leaving for Delhi on Friday evening, Siddaramaiah met ministers Zameer Ahmed Khan, N Cheluvarayaswamy and Dr MC Sudhakar.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah arrives for the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara's supporters stage a demonstration demanding the CM's post for him, at the AICC head quarters in New Delhi on Saturday

In Delhi, Param's supporters seek CM's post for him

Bengaluru: Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara's supporters staged a demonstration at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday, demanding the CM's post for him. Parameshwara's supporters gathered outside the Indira Bhavan where the CWC meeting was under way and displayed banners demanding the state's top post for him.

'Modi govt will repeal rural jobs scheme'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MINISTER for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) and Information Technology & Biotechnology (IT/BT) Priyank Kharge on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government will withdraw the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G) Bill replacing MGNREGA in the same way it repealed three farm bills following protests by farmers.

"They (the Modi government) said it would create two crore jobs annually, but they are now taking away rural people's rights for livelihood. They will withdraw the VB-G RAM-G Bill in the same way as they did it with the farm bills as people from villages will take to the streets and march to Delhi, Priyank told media persons in Bengaluru.

"Why is the Central government increasing the share of state governments in Central government schemes when it claims that its economic situation is very good? We are not opposing this only because of the removal of Gandhiji's name. We know that you have hatred for Gandhiji. Why are you taking that hatred out on our youth and the people of rural areas? If you like Nathuram Godse, keep his name by naming the scheme after him. But create employment at the rural level, strengthen the Panchayat level and create assets in villages," he said.

DyCM hits out at Kerala CM, tells him not to interfere in K'taka affairs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday hit out at Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for his remarks over evictions in an encroached land in Bengaluru and told him not to interfere in such matters.

It is unfortunate that senior leaders like Pinarayi Vijayan have commented without knowing the facts of the matter, Shivakumar told media persons in Bengaluru. He was responding to the Kerala CM's remarks that the Karnataka government was involved in "bulldozer raj".

Without knowing the facts, the Kerala CM should not interfere in Karnataka affairs, he said. He termed statements and protests against the eviction drive as a political gimmick in view of the upcoming Kerala elections. Shivakumar said they will send a message regarding the development to Congress leaders in Kerala.

"We don't have bulldozer culture, I appeal to Pinarayi Vijayan not to talk like that," he said. Stating that they were only protecting government land in the middle of the city, the DyCM said the land mafia sets up slums in order to encroach the land at a later stage, and the government won't let that happen.

The land, which was cleared of encroachment, was used for solid waste management, and there were many health-related issues in the area. "Bengaluru is not like other cities; we don't have many slums," he said. The encroachment clearance drive has nothing to do with minorities. If there is anyone who is genuinely affected, the government will provide them with housing elsewhere. The government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed, has built lakhs of homes for the poor in the state, he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to mediapersons in New Delhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the land which was cleared of encroachment was not fit for people to reside. Notices were given to those staying illegally on the government land, and when they failed to respond, the encroachments were cleared, he said. The CM said officials have been directed to make alternate arrangements for them.

He also posted on X, stating, "There is a fundamental difference between 'bulldozer justice' and the lawful removal of illegal encroachments. The criticism being made by (Kerala CM) Pinarayi Vijayan is politically motivated and reflects a lack of understanding of the factual situation."

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal stated that he spoke to Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar regarding the demolition.

"Conveyed the AICC's serious concern that such actions should have been undertaken with far greater caution, sensitivity and compassion, keeping the human impact at the centre. They have assured that they will personally engage with the affected families, put in place an appropriate mechanism for addressing grievances and ensure rehabilitation and relief for those impacted," Venugopal stated.

Kerala CPM leader visits Fakeer Layout

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament from Kerala, AA Rahim, on Saturday visited Fakeer Layout and Wasim Layout and termed the drive by the civic body as "inhumane". Lashing out at the ruling Congress government, he said, "The Sangh Parivar-supported Uttar Pradesh government sent bulldozers to raze homes of the poor. Unfortunately, the ruling Congress in Karnataka has followed a similar ideology," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Decision on poll tie-up with JDS up to BJP brass: BYV

Bengaluru: State BJP President BY Vijayendra on Saturday said the state unit of the party will abide by the decision of the central leadership on the electoral alliance with the JDS. "Deve Gowda is a tall leader of the state. He is a statesman. I respect him as much as I respect my father. Both are mass leaders. On the issue of electoral tie-up, the state BJP will abide by the decision taken by our Central leadership," Vijayendra told reporters. He said the BJP central leadership has decided to join hands with the JDS, and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda decided to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He refused to comment on Gowda's statement that JDS will not have tie-up with BJP in the local body elections. Hitting out at the Congress government in the state, the BJP leader said the result of the just-concluded local body elections is the writing on the wall. The people at the grassroots level are angry and have asked the Congress to either govern or get out, he said. **ENS**

In a move to account for the list of 'untraceable' voters that has surfaced as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Kerala government will set up help desks across village offices to ensure the inclusion of all eligible persons

Minor girl injured as vigilante duo checks for beef

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

AN 11-year-old girl was injured in an alleged vigilantes incident after her father's motorcycle was forcibly stopped by two people for allegedly transporting beef on Malali-Narlapadavi Road under Bajpe police station limits in Mangaluru.

City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy said that around 10 am, Abdul Sattar Mullarpatna was travelling on a motorcycle with his minor daughter while carrying about 19 kg of beef without valid documents. Reddy said that two people, identified as Sumit Bhandari (21) and Rajat Naik (30), both from Yedapadavu, intercepted the motorcycle using a Tata Sumo. During the obstruction, the motorcycle fell and the 11-year-old girl sustained burns on her leg after coming into contact with the bike's silencer. Abdul Sattar reportedly left the motorcycle at the spot and fled, while local residents shifted the injured child to a hospital.

The police later summoned the two accused for enquiry and questioned them separately. Rajat Naik claimed that they were on their way to deliver medicines to Maharshi Clinic, but verification revealed that no medicines were delivered. The two also stated that they were heading to a temple but failed to identify which temple when questioned individually.

The girl's statement was recorded at the hospital, in which she stated that the two men had blocked their vehicle and assaulted her father. Police said the exact nature of the alleged assault is being verified. The commissioner said a suo motu case is being registered against Abdul Sattar Mullarpatna for transporting beef without valid bills. An FIR is also being booked against Sumit Bhandari and Rajat Naik for alleged moral policing, unlawful obstruction and related offences.

The girl sustained burns when the bike fell during the attack and her leg came under its hot silencer | EXPRESS

FLP infection in rescued tigress, cubs raises concern

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE detection of Feline Panleukopenia (FLP) infection in a streak of tigers rescued in Karnataka has raised concerns among forest officials and veterinarians across the country.

The contagious FLP virus is found among felines. It does not spread to humans. Zoo animals are regularly vaccinated, which is the only way to control its spread. No cases of FLP infection in felines living in the forest have been confirmed so far.

"This is the first time FLP has been reported in big cats, particularly tigers, in Karnataka," Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Wildlife Bishwajit Mishra told *The New Indian Express*.

As a routine procedure, blood and fecal samples of the animals rescued for rehabilitation are tested. The infection was detected in a tigress and her four cubs, as the officials were testing samples collected from tigers rescued recently from areas near Bandipur and Nagahole forests. By the time the results were out, the four cubs had died. The tigress was found to be the carrier of the virus. She and her cubs were born in the buffer area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve. "A study is on to understand from where the big cats contracted the virus," Mishra said.

Officials and veterinarians fear that if the infection spreads in the wild, the tiger population may witness a drastic decline.

"After finding the FLP infection, we have decided to test samples from all captured felines. It is difficult to collect samples from those in the forests. Wild animals die in forests due to many causes, and FLP could be only one of them," said another forest official.

A team comprising veterinarians from Karnataka and those from Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareli, along with officials from Karnataka forest department and the ministry has been formed to study the origin of the FLP infection.

"One of the possibilities is that the animals have contracted the virus from a domestic feline as wild animals now stray in human habitats. Another possibility is that the virus was mutated earlier and has now become active. It is difficult to say if FLP has recently been detected in other countries, but it is the first case in Karnataka and India so far," said an official in the ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MOEFCC).

A veterinarian, who is a part of the study team said FLP virus stays dormant for long periods and acts only when the infected animal is immunocompromised. It also becomes active in cubs with low immunity levels.

"In this case, the blood samples of the tigress showed no traces of FLP, but her fecal samples confirmed that she was the carrier. The same could be happening in the wild too. If cubs show symptoms, which is now difficult to study, it is a concern," the veterinarian said.

GRAM PANCHAYAT SCAM: UPA LOKAYUKTA SAYS OFFICIAL VIOLATED PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

As the Upa Lokayukta has found out, with the help of his Secretary Aravind NV, Deputy Registrar-I, the irregularities are rampant. In one of the complaints, he has pointed out that in Dalasanur GP, the records show that during 2019-2020, Rs 3 lakh was spent on the construction of a road, but it did not exist, while money was paid for desilting of drains, but no work was done. Also, funds have been released for works not done under MGNREGA. No books of accounts have been maintained for cleaning of drains and maintenance of hygiene under the 15th Finance Programme. Three lakes out of six have been encroached and bills have been cleared without quotations for implementing the works. Though it is mandated that tenders should be invited for expenses above Rs 10,000, every month two to four bills for such amounts were cleared. No details were furnished about the grant released for SC/ST communities, physically challenged and construction of goat and cow sheds. When digital payment apps on the phones of employees were checked, it was found that more transactions were made than the actual salary. He also found misappropriation of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission. There has been no information on roads and garbage collection vehicles, while no logbook of borewells was maintained. He noted in the order that Sarvesh was found to have violated Section 232(A) of the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, which amounts to dereliction of duty, by not taking steps to ensure that GPs are on track.

SLUSH RACE

The 9th Edition of Mangaluru Kambala in progress at Goldfinch City, with hundreds of farmers participating valiantly, in the coastal city on Saturday | KEVIN NASHON

Tribal leaders point to lack of safety equipment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

SANNAHAIDA was also part of many tiger censuses. He routinely patrolled forest roads on foot for 5 to 8 km every day and was known among colleagues for his instincts and ability to sense the presence of animals. As doctors were unavailable to conduct the postmortem at the Gundlupet Government Hospital, Sannahaida's body was shifted to the Chamarajanagar Government Hospital. The funeral is scheduled for Sunday.

"It was a sudden incident that happened in the core area of the forest. Sannahaida was known for his tracking and watcher skills. His son is also working as a watcher in Bandipur," said Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, PC Rai. A detailed report has been sought from the ground staff as it is the first time such an incident has occurred, he added. Tribal leaders said anti-poaching staff deputed for patrols are not provided with adequate safety equipment. They demanded that necessary protective gear, including firecrackers, be supplied to frontline forest personnel. They recalled that Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre had announced a compensation of Rs 1 crore for forest personnel killed in wild animal attacks while on duty. They demanded that Sannahaida's family be provided with the promised aid and a job to one of the family members on compassionate grounds.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my clients **Mr. K Lingaraju** and Brothers, Legal Heirs of Late Sri. K. Manju, that unauthorized construction and selling being carried by M/s. SLV PROPERTIES at property No. 3/1 carved out of land Sy. No. 1/2 & 3/1, Khatha No. 273, 1/2, 3/1 measuring 9525 Sq. Ft with in BBMP limits, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061 (12°54'02.6"N 77°32'50.9"E) (SLV GRANDENIA) Case No. OS 5701/2023 in City Civil Court, & Arbitration Case No. 122/2025 in Karnataka Arbitration Center, are pending. Hon'ble City Civil Court has **Ordered to maintain Status-Quo on 13/11/2025 in O.S. No:5701/2023.** The legality of construction itself is still not concluded and **No Floor sharing agreement** is made and registered between the Legal heirs and builders. Anybody dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever, will be doing so at their own Risk, cost and consequences. **Any transaction, will be illegal, invalid, Null and Void, Liable for eviction, cancellation of sale Deed/Gift deed/Lease deed or any deed whatsoever...** My clients will not be held responsible for any losses, damages, legal consequences for such transactions, as M/s SLV properties have violated JD agreement dated 03.05.2021.

By G. Sridhar & Associates,
Advocate for Legal heirs,
No.59 South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bangaluru - 560004, Ph. 9343756514
Date : 27/12/2025 **Place :** Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **SRI. MAHESHA.N,** S/o Sri.Nagaraju, is intending to purchase a property fully described in the schedule hereunder from its owner **SRI. KESHAVA.R.** S/o Sri.N.Ramesh.

Any person having any kind of right, interest or claim may lodge their objections in writing with documentary proof **within 15 days** to the undersigned from the date of publication of this notice. If any kind of Objection is not received, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property in accordance with law. Any claim received thereafter will not be entertained or considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of **Property bearing No.31/3, New Municipal No.31/3, (Old Municipal No.31/2), Old PID No.33-19-31/3, carved out of Corporation Khata No.31, Old Site Nos.52 and 53, situated at 3rd Cross, Cholurpalya, Bengaluru - 560 023, presently BBMP Ward No.123-Vijayanagar, new E-Aasthi PID No. 1330873025,** measuring East to West 24 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, totally measuring 960 Square Feet along with a Three storied residential RCC building measuring 722 Square Feet, bounded on the:

East by : Property No.54
West by : Remaining Property
North by : 25 Feet Wide Road
South by : Remaining Property

D. SRINIVASA, Advocate,
No.13, 3rd Cross, Journalist Colony, Bangalore-560002 Mobile: 9886047740
Bengaluru Date: 27-12-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client is intending to purchase a shop in the First Floor of 'Aruna Market' bearing present BBMP Khatha No. 80/9, PID No.28-4-80/9, E-PID No. 3732318668, Property No.111/80/9, situated at Chowdeshwari Temple Street, Old Ward No.28, New Ward No.109, Bangalore, described as the Schedule Property from **Sri.V.VENKATAKRISHNAN**, aged about 62 years, son of T. Venkatachalapathi and he has also represented that Original Sale Deed dated 07-06-2006, registered as document No.GAN-1-01036-2006-07 and Original Rectification Deed dated 12-06-2006, registered as document No.GAN-1-01116-2006-07 have been lost.

The Public is hereby informed that if anybody have any objections for the above said Sale, they may file their objections along with the related documents to the under signed within **Ten days** from the date of this publication. If no objections have been received within the above time, my Clients will proceed to Purchase the Schedule Property as nobody have any objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of shop in the **First Floor** of **'Aruna Market'** bearing present BBMP Khatha No. 80/9, PID No.28-4-80/9, **E-PID No. 3732318668, Property No.111/80/9,** situated at **Chowdeshwari Temple Street,** Old Ward No.28, New Ward No. 109, Bangalore, measuring built up Area of **141 square feet.**

MAKAM NAGARAJA GUPTA
MAKAM LAW ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No. 429-430, Second Floor
Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G. Road
Bangalore-560 009

WESTERN RAILWAY
Material Management Department
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/75/2025 Date 24.12.2025

S.N.	Short Description of items	Quantity	T.O.D.
801	Complete Gear wheel	36 Set	16-Feb-26
802	Modified brush holder revolving ring assembly	348 Nos	09-Feb-26
803	Traction Motor	4 Nos	02-Feb-26
804	Spheri Bloc for Axle Guide & Torque Arm for WAG-9	996 Nos	27-Jan-26
805	Thin walled Electron beam cable with copper conductor 19 core, Size: 2.5 Sq.mm	28000 Mtr	27-Jan-26
806	Rubber Sandwich	613 Set	26-Jan-26
807	Procurement of Bogie Frame complete	23 Nos	26-Jan-26
808	Traction Transformer complete	1 Nos	23-Jan-26
809	Thin walled Electron beam cable with copper conductor single core, Size: 25 Sq.mm, 3000V	32000 Mtr	22-Jan-26
810	Set of Air Brake Cylinder Assembly 8" x 8" for WAP-4 LOCOMOTIVE	395 Set	22-Jan-26
811	Supply, Installation, commissioning and testing for Modification of Fault Indication (Led Indication)	6 Nos	22-Jan-26
812	Gadus S5 V42 P2.5 Grease	2743 KG	22-Jan-26
813	160 KN Air Spring Assembly for Fiat	308 Nos	19-Jan-26
814	Earth Return Brush device	1474 Nos	17-Jan-26

CORRIGENDUM

Please read the due date as **"05.01.2026"** for the **Tender Notice No: S-67-2025 Dated: 13.11.2025 at Sr. No. 693**

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in.** 0942

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pnb Housing Finance Limited Ghar Ki Baat

Regd. Office:- 9th Floor, Antrakish Bhavan, 22, K G Marg, New Delhi-110001,Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: www.pnbhousing.com; Branch Address:-No. 40, Jodh Tower 3rd Floor, 27th Cross 5th Main Road, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore- 560 011.

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.**, for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No	Branch	Loan A/c No(s)	Name of Borrower /Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Date of Possession Taken
1	Jaya Nagar	HOU/MNLR/1123/1185642 & HOU/MNLR/1123/1185721	Mr. Bharath Balakrishna Kanchugar, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi B Kanchugar and M/s. Vaishanvi PG	04/09/2025	Rs. 57,51,835/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Fifty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Five Only) due as on 04-09-2025	23-12-2025 (Physical Possession)

Description of the Property/ies mortgaged

"Property – I (HOU/MNLR/1123/1185642)"SCHEDULE 'A' "(Description of the land) ""Non-agricultural immovable property held on Warg right situated in Kenjar village of Mangalore Taluk, and within the Registration Sub- District of Mangalore Taluk, D.K. District, and comprised in,

"Item No	Sy.No	Sy.No	Kissam	Extent A-C	Portion"
1	97-7AP9	97-7A	Converted	0-08.00	South Middle"
2	97-7AP10	97-7A	Converted	0-07.45	Eastern"
3	97-7AP5-P2	97-7A	Converted	0-06.00	Southern"
4	97-7P7	97-7A	Converted	0-11.25	Eastern portion"
5	97-7AP4	97-7A	Converted	0-07.00	Eastern Middle"
				0-39.70	

" With all other mamool and easementary rights appurtenant thereto. The aforesaid properties form one compact block. "Boundaries: As per Khatha "North, East : Road,"South : Road & remaining portion of the same Sy.No."West: Remaining portion of the same Sy.No."Along with undivided share 2.64% right in the above land. ""SCHEDULE 'B' "DESCRIPTION OF THE APARTMENT ""Residential Apartment No. 502 (Property No. 2543045064), bearing D. No. 2-214/53-1 measuring 1645 Sq. Ft.(152.88 Sq. Mts) built up area on the Fifth Floor along with one Car Parking Space in the 1st Cellar Floor of the 'HELENA HEIGHTS' apartment building together with proportionate undivided 2.64% right, title and interest in the schedule 'A' land in which the said building is built and similar undivided right in the common areas and facilities of the said building as mentioned in Deed of Declaration. "PROPERTY – II (HOU/MNLR/1123/1185721)""SCHEDULE 'A' "(Description of the land) ""Non-agricultural immovable property held on Warg right situated in Kenjar village of Mangalore Taluk, and within the Registration Sub- District of Mangalore Taluk, D.K. District, and comprised in,

"Item No	Sy.No	Sy.No	Kissam	Extent A-C	Portion"
1	97-7AP9	97-7A	Converted	0-08.00	South Middle"
2	97-7AP10	97-7A	Converted	0-07.45	Eastern"
3	97-7AP5-P2	97-7A	Converted	0-06.00	Southern"
4	97-7P7	97-7A	Converted	0-11.25	Eastern portion"
5	97-7AP4	97-7A	Converted	0-07.00	Eastern Middle
				0-39.70	

"With all other mamool and easementary rights appurtenant thereto. The aforesaid properties form one compact block. "Boundaries: As per Khatha "North, East : Road,"South : Road & remaining portion of the same Sy.No."West: Remaining portion of the same Sy.No."Along with undivided share 2.08% right in the above land. ""SCHEDULE 'B' "DESCRIPTION OF THE APARTMENT ""Residential Apartment No. 503 (Property No. 8792600112), bearing D. No. 2-214/53-2 measuring 1300 Sq. Ft.(120.81 Sq. Mts) built up area on the Fifth Floor along with one Car Parking Space in the 1st Cellar Floor of the 'HELENA HEIGHTS' apartment building together with proportionate undivided 2.08% right, title and interest in the schedule 'A' land in which the said building is built and similar undivided right in the common areas and facilities of the said building as mentioned in Deed of Declaration. "

Date: 23.12.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Place: Bangalore **PNB Housing Finance Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the original Advance Sale Agreement dated 09/05/2011 executed between **Smt. Jayalakshmamma** (the owner) **and Smt. Rashmi P Ambali** (the purchaser) for the property bearing Sy No.72/P5, measuring 2 Acres 20 Guntas, situated at Hosuru Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & Dst, Bounded :

East by : Road,
West by : Gomala Land (Sy.No.72),
North by : Government Gudda,
South by : T.M.T Land,

has been lost. The report of the same has been lodged at the police station. If found, kindly return the document to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Further, all persons are hereby informed not to deal with or carry out any transaction with the said landowners regarding the above property. If anyone has already carried out or is carrying out any such transaction, kindly inform the undersigned in writing at the below-mentioned address within 7 days from the present notice.

Lex i Advocates - Chandra Chooda
No.12, Anu Arcade, 3rd floor, CMH Road, Indranagar , Bangalore 560 008.
Ph- 97422 58221.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE (CCH-8), AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 8000/2024

BETWEEN : State Bank of India, (RACPC), Address at No.5/1, Prestige Star Building, 1st Floor, Ring Road, Near Mother Dairy, Yelahanka New Town, BENGALURU - 64 Rept., by its Chief Manager, Mr. Amarendra Kumar Singh ...PLAINTIFF
AND : Mr. N. S. Murthy, ...DEFENDANT

Summons / Notice to the Defendant under Order V Rule 20(1-A) Of CPC:

To : Mr. N.S. Murthy, No.103, 3rd Cross, Arvindanagara, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore 560084.

Whereas the Plaintiff bank has instituted the above suit against you for the recovery of a total Sum of Rs.13,73,088/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Eighty Eight Only) with full court costs and Penal Interest and current and future interests. Therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly instructed advocate on **30-01-2026 at 11.A.M.** to answer the claim of the Plaintiff. On your failure to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the aforesaid date the case will be decided EXPARTE.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 17-12-2025, Bengaluru.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff :
Mr. G.M. RUDRASWAMY,
Office at No.27, Akshya Complex, 2nd Cross, First Floor, Nagappa Street, Palace Guttahalli, BENGALURU-560 003. Phone: 99868 33635

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru District - 570020
Ph.0821-2515598 Email: eevccdn2@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.12/2025-26, Dated: 26.12.2025

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru from Eligible Registered Contractors for 01 Number of constructions of canal works amounting 418.00 Lakhs to take up these works on Item Rate Contract basis. The last date for Tender quarries/clarification is **Date: 02-01-2026 till 5.30 p.m.** Last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **Date:03-01-2026 till 5.30 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical bid is **Date: 06-01-2026 at 11.30 a.m.** and Date of opening of Financial bid is **Date: 08-01-2026 at 5.30 pm** For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through KPP-Portal by logging in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.
No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE-3/T.No.36/2025-26/ Dt. 24-12-2025

Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW- 4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two cover system** for Class 3 above Contractors registered in PWD for 04 works under 5054 MDR Improvements Head of accounts in the jurisdiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP- Portal**(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Amount Put to Tender Rs. 151.00 Lakhs, EMD Amt Rs. 226515.00 Lakhs,)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**: 07-01-2026: 17.30**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**: 08-01-2026 : 16.00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**: 09-01-2026 : 16.30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**: 12-01-2026 : 11.00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-195/25-26/Oysters P.W.D Division, Tumkur

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KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/32/2025 **Date : 27.12.2025**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of insecticides for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases under plan fund for the year 2025-26.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/CHLORINE TAB/RC/2025/035 dtd. 27.12.2025	1
2.	KMSCL/ED/DIFLUBENZURON/RC/2025/036 dtd. 27.12.2025	1

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	15.01.2026	05.00pm.
Date of technical bid opening	17.01.2026	11.30 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.** **(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR** (Tender Inviting Authority)

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB 127 INFRA EPH 2023/3903 Date:24/12/2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has proposed for development of **"Doothanur Kaval Industrial Area"** in an extent of 177.27 Acres (71.74 Hectares) located at Kanive Aladahalli Village, Shanthigrama Hobli, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District & Doothanur Kaval, Dandiganahalli Hobli, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District. The Project requires Environmental Clearance as per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, and it is required to conduct Environmental Public Hearing process. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority -Karnataka dated 02.03.2023 vide File No. SEIAA 14 IND 2023, proposal No. SIA/KA/INFRA1/419269/ 2023. As per project proponent request letter No. KIADB/HSN/DO/2023-24, dated:08.08.2023 & RO-Hasan letter No.KSPCB/RO (Hassan)/EPH/ 2025-26/1304, dated: 02.12.2025, the Environmental Public hearing is scheduled by the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District on **29th January 2026, Thursday at 3:30 PM.** The Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board as per details given below;

1. Name of the Company & Address :Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Zonal Office, Industrial Development Centre, H.N Pura Road, Hassan.
2. Proposed Location of the Project : "Doothanur Kaval Industrial Area" in an extent of 177.27 Acres (71.74 Hectares) located at Kanive Aladahalli Village, Shanthigrama Hobli, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District & Doothanur Kaval, Dandiganahalli Hobli, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.
3. Details of activity : Development of "Doothanur Kaval Industrial Area" project falls under 7 (c) 'B' Category as per the EIA notification, 2006 in an extent of 177.27 Acres (71.74 Hectares) located at Kanive Aladahalli Village, Shanthigrama Hobli, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District & Doothanur Kaval, Dandiganahalli Hobli, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.
4. Date, time and venue of Public Hearing : Date: 29th January 2026, (Thursday) Time: 3:30 PM Place: Proposed project site at Doothanur Kaval, Dandiganahalli Hobli, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District.
5. Capital Investment : Rs.27.235Cr. (Project cost)

6. Places of availability of project documents kept open for public: 1) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District. **2)** Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Hassan District. **3)** District Industries Centre, Hassan District. **4)** Office of Tahasildar, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District. **5)** Office of Tahasildar, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District. **6)** Taluk Panchayath office, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District. **7)** Taluk Panchayath office, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District. **8)** Grama Panchayath Office, Madenur Gram Panchayath, Shanthigrama Hobli, Hassan District, Hassan Taluk. **9)** Gram Panchayath office, Baladhare Gram Panchayath, Dandiganahalli Hobli, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District. **10)** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer- Mysuru, Plot No.436-D, 1st Floor, Hebbal Industrial Area, K.R.S Road, Metagalli, Mysuru-570016. **11)** Office of the Regional Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, "Parisara Bhavan", Plot No. 1-A, B.Katihalli Industrial Area, B.M.Road, Hassan-573201. **12)** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. **13)** State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (SEIAA), 4th Gate, 7th Floor, Forest Ecology and Environmental Department, MS Building, Bengaluru -560 001. **14) HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District).** Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details, please visit our website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

"The moon, the sun, the stars are like everyday objects. Even though the moon and the sun are eternal, they still move around

Vinod Kumar Shukla

THE YEAR TRUMP TALKED PEACE AND WAGED WAR

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*

(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

TWENTY twenty-five: a year when geopolitics sanctified populism, protectionism, personalism and proto-fascism. It was a year when apparitions from the past, assumed exorcised, sashayed into the parish of public discourse; a year that churned events and emotions like a twisting kaleidoscope. It was the year of that ineffable qualm defined by T S Eliot's haunting observation: "In every moment you live at a point of intersection."

The year was dominated by a noun that also serves as a verb, and even an adjective. Donald J Trump defined the year and occupied global attention like none before. Nothing that he said nor did was surprising—nothing was out of his campaign script—and yet, his words, conduct, ideas and actions were often shocking. It was a year when Trump talked peace and waged war—literally and metaphorically.

As the year draws to a close, the gaps between intent, initiatives and impact merit a few observations. Let's look at where peace stands and then unravel where the trade wars are.

Trump has consistently claimed that he stopped eight wars. India disputed any claim of intervention and, indeed, America's intervention was likely triggered by the Brahmos strike on Nur Khan air base believed to be under US control. The ceasefire in Gaza is interrupted by Israeli operations, the Thai Air Force continues bombing Cambodia, the Rwanda-Congo war simmers and so on.

On Sunday, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is meeting Trump in Florida to discuss a peace plan owned by different sides at different times. Trump's claim of stopping the war in 24 hours is 340 days late. The US stance has yo-yoed as the peace brigade travelled from Washington DC to Rome to Alaska. In vogue this week is the idea of converting the disputed territories into a demilitarised 'free economic zone'. Peace prospects rest on precariously perched trade-offs.

Even as peace eludes, the US National Security Strategy document has triggered debate. The brutal takedown of Europe has set EU leaders thinking. The debate on the Trump corollary to the Monroe Doctrine—designed to signify a clear break between the New World and the autocratic Old World—and domination over the Americas is evolving into a cloud of angst.

Meanwhile, Trump's war on 'narco terrorists' morphed into a drive for regime change—Trump says it would be a smart move for Nicolás Maduro to step down. It is useful to note that Venezuela, accused by Trump of theft of assets, earlier threatened Guyana, which hosts a large oilfield under ExxonMobil. Trump has not ruled out a war and this week ramped up the buildup in the Caribbean—its C17 planes made 16 trips to Puerto Rico from other bases.

In his inaugural address in January, Trump said, "We will measure our success not only by the battles we win but also by the wars that we end—and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into." In June, his base was troubled by US involvement in the Israel-Iran conflict. In the few past weeks, Trump ordered strikes on ISIS in Somalia; this Friday, the US targeted groups in Nigeria purportedly to protect Christians. Non-profit conflict monitor ACLED's data suggests the US has carried out over 500 bombings the world over this year.

The jury is out on the record of 'the Peace President'. What about the trade wars? How is Trump doing more than 260 days after Liberation Day? It is true that the US has collected $236 billion in tariffs. It is equally true that in September 2025, the year-to-date data shows America's goods and services trade deficit increased $112.6 billion, or 17.2 percent higher than that witnessed in January-September 2024.

How has the US done vis-ā-vis the countries with which it has had the highest trade deficits? Talks with China travelled across continents but is mired in consequential issues. China set the terms of trade with a series of crippling orders on rare minerals. There is a pause for sure, but there is no sign of a deal yet.

The deal with India, supposedly round the corner, awaits Trump's okay. The parade of delays has implications for the US-India relationship. A deal with the EU is signed but not delivered as talks are stuck on the regulation of tech giants. As for Mexico and Canada—the biggest trade partners of the US—there is no sign of the USMCA treaty's renewal.

Yes, trade and deficit with China are lower, but both are higher with Mexico; following suit are Vietnam, Taiwan and Ireland. Two data points stand out. China's trade surplus passed the $1-trillion mark despite a 29 percent drop in shipments to the US. And notwithstanding all the sanctions, Russia's rouble has appreciated to 79 to a dollar, levels last seen before the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Trump wants to rearrange the global economy as he imagines it. He may stumble at the Supreme Court, but is unlikely to change course. The question is whether tariffs are serving the US economy's interests. As of now, a part of tariffs are being eaten by companies and the impact is showing in lower and slower hiring. Rising debt, Kenneth Rogoff points out, may render the dollar less desirable.

Does the talk-peace-and-wage-war approach serve US interests? Already, the world is engaging to reimagine a multi-polar world scaffolded by interests, not ideologies. As Eliot wrote, "There will be time, there will be time / To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet."

2025's NATIONALIST NARRATIVE CATALYST

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA

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THE year ended with a roar on the silver screen and its echo defined everything that followed. The success of *Dhurandhar* was not only cinematic but civilisational. It did not simply break records. It set the emotional tone of a nation. When audiences rose to their feet as credits rolled on December 5, they were not merely celebrating a film's craft. They were acknowledging a sentiment that had long been searching for voice.

By its 21st day in theatres, *Dhurandhar* was reported to have crossed the ₹1,000-crore milestone worldwide, becoming the highest-grossing Indian film of the year and the fifth-largest success of all time. In its triumph lay the signal that the nationalist mood of India had moved from politics to popular imagination, that cinema audiences had begun dictating the nation's emotional narrative rather than following it. The country's biggest industry—long accused of speaking in borrowed accents and cosmopolitan codes—had suddenly begun to reflect the nationalistic mood.

What made this moment even more significant was the ecosystem it revealed. Throughout 2025, Hindi cinema experienced what industry analysts called a "steady flow of steady performers", rather than dependence on blockbuster spectacles. In the first half of the year alone, 17 films crossed the coveted hundred-crore mark at the domestic box office, a dramatic increase from merely 10 such films in the corresponding period of 2024. For decades, Hindi cinema had lived through the boom-bust cycle where two or three massive releases carried the annual load. In 2025, the pattern inverted. The industry witnessed momentum driven not by 'event cinema', but by films that connected with audiences through authenticity, emotional honesty and a willingness to address what people actually felt rather than what critics prescribed they should feel.

From its first week, *Dhurandhar* was more than a blockbuster. Its advertising, tone, dialogues and audience engagement embodied a spirit that was simultaneously defiant and celebratory. It proved that patriotic sentiment could transcend geographical and demographic boundaries. The film's triumph occurred in a year already marked by significant shifts in storytelling. In February, *Chhaava*, Vicky Kaushal's historical action-drama about Maratha warrior Sambhaji, had crossed ₹600 crore at the box office, signalling that Indian history and heroes were no longer marginal subjects but mainstream currency.

X.COM

Dhurandhar itself justified that symbolism through cinematic craft. It opened with the precision of a military operation and advanced with the momentum of conviction. For an audience long accustomed to irony and moral hesitation, this clarity arrived like relief. People did not quietly consume *Dhurandhar*—they claimed it as emotional property.

The reasons for this response lay deeper than the screen. For years, Hindi cinema had lost touch with its wider audience precisely because its guardians had misread what that audience wanted. The major production houses and creative communities had circled themselves in cosmopolitan caution. Patriotism was often reduced to background decor or mocked as an outdated reflex. Storytelling had turned into symbolism designed for validation of Western lifestyles and culture rather than emotion at home. When *Dhurandhar* appeared, it violated that trend with unapologetic enthusiasm.

The moment was ripe for such a shift. Since 2019, India's political and cultural language has undergone steady transformation. The old markers of elite progressivism, urban irony, global aspiration and moral neutrality began to fade as authentic expressions of national sentiment reasserted themselves. In their place rose a direct and confident nationalism that sought its reflection in culture. *Dhurandhar* arrived precisely when that mirror was missing.

The earlier success of films such as *Uri: The Surgical Strike*, *The Kashmir Files* and *The Kerala Story* had hinted at the change; but *Dhurandhar* institutionalised it. It became not just a film but a launchpad for a new emotional mainstream. Its impact was so pronounced that it seemed to give permission to an entire industry that had been afraid to speak its own language. A new generation of filmmakers and writers from smaller cities or digital platforms entered the mainstream empowered by the realisation that authenticity could sell and that audiences were hungry for stories that did not ask them to feel ashamed of their own identity. The monopoly of inherited surnames and old networks began to loosen.

Yet, the success of *Dhurandhar* must not be mistaken for the triumph of aggression. Its achievement lay in articulation, not polemic. The director chose precision over bombast. Every emotional beat was earned rather than declared. The protagonist's resilience was depicted not as dominance but as dedication to purpose. The lesson extended beyond cinema: the rising nationalism of 2025 found in *Dhurandhar* a model of confidence without contempt, of pride without prejudice. The film's success while maintaining this balance suggested that audiences, too, were more sophisticated than the critics had assumed—capable of appreciating patriotic sentiment without requiring it to harden into hatred.

Still, this transformation carries its own challenge. The newfound assertiveness of Hindi cinema must avoid the trap of predictability or formulaic repetition. What will define the decade ahead is not how many nationalistic films are made, but how deeply they explore the human experience within them. Precision of craft should accompany clarity of message. The promise of *Dhurandhar* was not that every film must shout its identity, but that no film should be afraid of it. The industry must resist the temptation to turn a rediscovery of voice into a new orthodoxy.

By the final quarter of 2025, it was clear that the cultural axis had shifted fundamentally. The very critics who once dismissed such projects as populist or narrowly exclusive were conceding that a new narrative order had emerged. In hindsight, the year will be remembered not only for *Dhurandhar*'s record-breaking success but for how it redefined cinematic legitimacy. The old hierarchy of taste, the circle of directors, critics and producers who mediated what India should feel lost its influence. The local triumphed over the global not because it shut out the world, but because it spoke from the depth of belonging. Certainty replaced confusion as the artistic mood of the year.

Dhurandhar did more than dominate the box office. It became the cultural catalyst of India's nationalist turn in 2025. Its echoes extended beyond cinema into politics, media and even daily conversation. It reminded the world's largest democracy that its most powerful art form could align with its social heartbeat without surrendering craft or nuance. It transformed mood into movement and movement into mainstream—and, in the process, shifted the axis upon which Bollywood would turn for years to come.

As 2026 begins, the resonance of *Dhurandhar* will continue to shape creative imagination. Whether this wave of conviction will evolve into depth or dissolve into noise remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: year 2025 marked the moment when Bollywood stopped mimicking fake global voices and began listening to its own. Through *Dhurandhar*, Indian cinema rediscovered its right to believe. And in doing so, it helped a nation rediscover the courage to feel.

THE GOD OF NOT-SO-SMALL THINGS

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN

Former bureaucrat and author of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

THE spiritual tech market in India is booming. According to some estimates, it is likely to reach a value of around $58 billion by 2030. The trend gained momentum during the Covid era. Today, it's possible to do a puja or a havan virtually. While such apps have their uses, they do not substitute the actual experience.

The use of artificial intelligence tools has added a new dimension to religious study and practice. Thanks to open-source AI models, chatbots are ready to answer religious questions. With AI Vedas, Deen Buddy, AI Buddha and Text with Jesus now available, almost every religion has acquired AI avatars. Their accessibility and speedy responses may lead users to revere them as they would a guru. This generation of digital natives are comfortable turning to chatbots for advice.

Two distinct characteristics of the present age are algorithm-driven predictability and a tendency to seek validation. Predictability does not factor in the concept of free will and continues to engage the user with familiar content. The way validation works is by affirming the beliefs of a user, even though it may be illogical. To a vulnerable user who perhaps doubts the authority of existing institutions, these computational outputs may appear as the truth—and nothing but the truth.

The question that arises is whether the high-level computing resources used by AI should be directed to areas like religion, which are not essentially data-driven. It is unlikely that AI can grasp the meaning of the sacred, which has an emotional component. It is said that the Buddha's response to certain questions was transformative silence. It is doubtful if any AI tool would be capable of conveying this noble silence.

Religion is essentially a system of beliefs that addresses some of the most perplexing situations in human existence. When a chatbot gives answers on human experience, it would not be based on experiential knowledge. Further, many religious practices are community-based. When people engage with personalised religious chatbots, they could lose the organic connection to other participants in the quest. There is a Zulu saying that underlines the Ubuntu philosophy, "A person is a person because of other people."

AI venturing into religion may prove to be a tool for indoctrination. Religion has the potential to anchor human beings to core values, giving them an ethical framework. However, throughout history, religion has also triggered wars, incited brutality and ignited passions. It has been worn as a badge of identity and followers openly declare their faith even today.

Religious leaders have weighed in on AI's influence. The Sankaracharya of Sringeri recently said that dharma, meaning right conduct, continues to be relevant in the age AI. Pope Leo XIV has urged AI developers to bring in "moral discernment" to their work.

AI has added a new dimension to religious study. To avoid its use as a tool for harmful indoctrination, algorithms must be rooted in tolerance and coexistence

Religious AI tools should have the right incentive structure, which prioritises ethics, tolerance and coexistence. This is necessary considering the potential reach of the technology. The responsibility is, therefore, on those training AI models to bring into the architecture such beneficial incentive structures. Without oversight, AI could become a source of misinformation or prove to be snake oil.

Religions are often a product of existential crises. AI trained on swathes of data can respond to many questions with some degree of plausibility. What it lacks is the lived experience of religious thinkers and savants. But it could hypothetically continue to exist forever, possessing the immortality that many humans aspire for. This may be misinterpreted as a sign of transcendence. It is highly possible that AI, especially generative AI, will birth cults, create false prophets and proffer slick solutions as interactions increase.

AI could also carve for itself the position of a religion itself. A Silicon Valley engineer in 2017 started a church, The Way of the Future, where the godhead was AI. Although the church was wound up, it later revived with a small following. But the idea it perpetrates is that of an omniscient entity with an array of capabilities including control, execution and destruction.

Some enthusiasts believe that AI will acquire a consciousness in the future. However, questions regarding the nature of human consciousness are themselves unresolved. Machines may not become self-aware because of their computational prowess—thinking involves not merely active assimilation, but also passive reflection. It's worthwhile to remember the words of Emily Bender, who said that AI tools can be "stochastic parrots".

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER

As mesmerising and enjoyable as it was to watch as a fan, we want Test cricket clearly to go for longer. Short Tests are bad for business. I can't be much more blunt than that. So I would like to see a slightly broader balance between the bat and the ball.

Todd Greenberg, CEO of Cricket Australia, after the third Test of the ongoing Ashes series finished in two days, resulting in a loss of $3.3 million

Every citizen requires fresh air. If you can't do it, the minimum [the government] can do is to reduce GST.

Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya of the Delhi High Court on a plea to classify air purifiers as medical devices and reduce GST on them

The military-orchestrated elections are likely to intensify violence while failing to generate durable political or economic stability.

Ye Myo Hein, senior fellow at Southeast Asia Peace Institute, about the three-phase Myanmar election starting on Sunday

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Unequal growth

Ref: *Jobs remain biggest challenge* (Dec 27). The government is euphoric about GDP growth, but it is not a holistic indicator of economic well-being. India suffers from skewed growth, income and wealth. Add to that the high trade deficit, weakening currency and poor job creation. Generating jobs will require matching or upgrading of skills.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Future jobs

Ref: *Jobs remain biggest challenge* (Dec 27). While the estimate of 8 percent growth in the first half of the fiscal year appears optimistic, it's clearly a jobless growth. The uneven macroeconomic indicators point towards rising unemployment in the coming years too. Strengthening exports and maintaining a stable currency would be crucial for the country's growth in the near term.

M P Vanishree, email

Tarique's return

Ref: *Return of the prodigal* (Dec 27). The author has effectively highlighted the finer aspects of Bangladesh's current situation and the evolving political landscape. Tarique Rahman's return signals a major turn in the dynamics. The BNP's pitch for "inclusive growth" offers renewed hope for minorities. India's restrained response is a welcome sign.

K Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

Lose-lose mindset

Ref: *Return of the prodigal* (Dec 27). The loud, angry and destructive mindset in both countries definitely affects the earlier win-win strategy. It's high time for the common man to understand that group gatherings in the name protecting linguistic or religious rights could be highly risky. I am reminded a Jim Reeves song: '*Where do I go from here?*'

Indra Getzy David, email

Missing school

Ref: *Karnataka third in south India* (Dec 27). The rising number of out-of-school children in Karnataka signals serious socio-psychological issues beyond academic loss. Exclusion from schooling deprives children of emotional stability, social belonging and self-confidence. This often reflects anxiety, child labour, early marriage and long-term marginalisation. Schools function as protective spaces that nurture discipline, resilience and positive identity formation. Addressing this crisis requires community engagement, parental awareness and psychological support.

Keerthana Prasad, Bengaluru

Christmas mischief

Ref: T*amil Nadu CM anguished over attack on minorities during Christmas* (Dec 26). It may be justifiable to condemn the mischievous behaviour of Hindutva groups on Christmas eve. Keeping in mind the church's conversion bids, it's natural that no party would miss the opportunity do their own bidding. But do the party publications they pose with carry the news of the heinous lynching of Hindus in neighbouring countries?

Mariappan, Dharapuram

Animal attacks

Ref: *65-year-old tribal woman killed in wild jumbo attack* (Dec 27). Man-animal conflict has become a recurrent affair in Kerala. The victims are mostly from vulnerable sections like the tribal communities who dwell in or near forest areas. It's apparent that the Kerala government has taken a reactive approach, staying satisfied with granting monetary compensation. But the root causes of the deadly menace remain unaddressed.

A Raveendranath, Pathanamthitta

Liver life

Ref: *Make India healthy again* (Dec 26). Your Quick Take on the subject is really appreciable. But the recent focus on fatty liver needs qualification. Because of frequent USGs done on the abdomen, reports of fatty liver have become common. There are two stages to ascertain the condition: through liver function tests (no worries if normal) and the recently-introduced fibroscan, which indicates whether liver damage can lead to cirrhosis or cancer.

Dr S Shanmugam, Tirunelveli

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sagarika Ghose @sagarikaghose
The @BJP4India's Bengal 'face' wants a Gaza like operation against Bangladesh. Dog whistles that the @narendramodi government is for 'Hindus' only.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
In the current BJP rule of Kaliyug, the situation has come to this that saints and ascetics have to lie down on the ground and plead before the officials.

Suvendu Adhikari @SuvenduWB
The blood of Dipu Das cries out for justice. From mob violence to Temple desecrations and the systematic persecution of Hindus must end NOW.

Cong leader uses Modi reference to raise issue of grassroots politics in the party, backtracks later after the criticism

Digvijaya praises BJP-RSS, triggers row

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the crucial Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Saturday, Congress veteran and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh triggered a political row after publicly praising the organisational strength of the BJP and its ideological mentor, the RSS. In a post on social media, the Congress leader shared PM Narendra Modi's old picture and said how a grassroots worker went on to become the CM and prime minister by sitting at the feet of their leaders.

Sources said Singh also raised the issue of strengthening the Congress organisation at the grassroots level in the CWC meeting, saying it was much needed in the fight against the ruling BJP and to oust it from power. The former CM pointed out that while District Congress Committees (DCCs) exist on paper in Madhya Pradesh, the party lacks an active workforce at the grassroots level.

Sources said that in response to Singh's remarks, Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said that state leaders also needed to do their part, stressing that the central organisation was doing as much as it could. Singh reportedly acknowledged this, replying briefly, "Yes."

The picture of PM Modi sitting on the floor that was posted on social media

Sharing a screenshot from Quora on X, Singh commented that the picture showed how grassroots workers in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP could advance through the ranks to hold the highest constitutional positions.

"Quora site. It is very impressive. In what way did the grassroots 'swayamsevak' of RSS and the worker of Jan Sangh @BJP4India sit on the floor at the feet of leaders and become the Chief Minister of the State and the Prime Minister of the country? This is the power of the organisation. Jai Siya Ram," Singh said in a post on X.

The remarks created a flutter, and he also tagged the official Congress handle along with party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi. Speaking to this paper, several leaders said that they endorse Singh's call for organisational reform.

Singh, however, backtracked later, saying he only talked about the organisation and its strength and not the BJP or the RSS, as he was staunchly against the two.

"In fact, I praised the party organisation. You people have misunderstood things. I am a staunch opponent of the BJP and the RSS," Singh clarified in his social media post after the meeting. He also added, "I said whatever I wanted to."

Remark open dissent to Rahul Gandhi, says BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday responded to a social media post of Congress leader Digvijay Singh that featured a photograph showing Narendra Modi sitting on the floor near senior party leaders, saying the image reflected BJP's working culture.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "This is a symbol of the working style of BJP, how a person connected to the ground can reach the top with talent, capability and the support of the organisation."

Referring to the photograph, Trivedi said, "This is a well-known photograph in which Advani ji is sitting on the chair, and PM Modi, who was a young Karyakarta at that time, is sitting on the floor." He added that Digvijay Singh is a very senior leader and has been observing politics for a long time, suggesting that he might have realised this fact.

Taking a swipe at Congress party culture, Trivedi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "Gudri ke Lal", while the Congress leadership is described as "Jawahar ke Lal", and both cannot be compared.

"The Congress leadership have brought their party to an upside-down state, while our Prime Minister rose from the bottom to the top and is taking the party to the top as well," he said. Taking a dig at Rahul Gandhi, Trivedi said that Digvijay Singh had questioned Gandhi's understanding. "Congress is struggling without power and after 2024 this struggle has turned into desperation and agony," he added.

BJP national spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla also mocked Rahul Gandhi, saying, "...now even people from the party and family are expressing no-confidence against Rahul Gandhi."

KULDEEP SENGAR

'POWER LORD' FROM THE HINTERLAND REEMERGES

NAMITA BAJPAI

MANDAR PARDIKAR

INDIAN judiciary has an image to protect. When a victim becomes helpless and sees other pillars of democracy crumbling, she looks up to the exalted benches with hope for justice. The last refuge of the powerless can also deliver irony in the winter chill of the national capital, especially when the perpetrator is a man of brute, feudal and political power, that runs amok naked in the wild fields.

In offering reprieve to Kuldeep Singh Sengar, former BJP MLA and convict of rape and murder, the Delhi High Court climbed down from the height the lady of justice sits. Even without a seat in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Sengar is powerful enough to scare the rape survivor and drive a nation's conscience towards an agitation it would have preferred to avoid.

The rape survivor, her mother, and activists sat on dharnas wherever they could, including outside the court premises. They could do so because, in a twist of unfortunate irony, Sengar is no ordinary one-issue convict. He got bail from the HC in the rape case, but will stay in jail, as he is serving another 10-year sentence for plotting the murder of the rape survivor's father. He could walk out of jail—an unimaginable scenario for the survivor—if judiciary continues with its "magnanimous streak" towards the powerful and grants him bail in that case too.

Senger is a quintessential north Indian politician of the hinterlands. Not suave, not a man of letters, not bothered about legal fine-print, not concerned about Article 21 of the Constitution: just a man surrounded by musclemen and a caravan of vehicles with red beacons.

He might have considered himself an invincible frog in the small well of Unnao constituency, something that led him to violate the 16-year-old survivor. Who can forget the April forenoon of 2018, when the minor survivor tried to immolate herself outside the heavily guarded residence of the chief minister in Lucknow in a desperate act to push the state government towards acknowledging her plight. The minor claimed that Sengar, the powerful BJP MLA of Bangarmau in Unnao, had raped her the previous year. She also accused the system of shielding him.

When the media woke up to her tragedy, Sengar's power was briefly curtailed. He was arrested and sent to jail, but he was still the "power lord". He plotted an assault on the survivor's father in custody as the father was picked by cops after getting implicated in a case of brawl with Sengar's men. The father was being allegedly coerced by Unnao cops to ask his daughter to withdraw charges against Senger.

The public outcry ensured that justice was delivered to the survivor. Politicians also joined in. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led a sustained campaign against him. The political pressure clipped his wings, as he was expelled from BJP. A POCSO court sentenced him to life in December 2019 and ordered him to pay ₹25 lakh as compensation to the survivor.

But before he was delivered justice, Sengar, allegedly, had another shot at lawlessness. On July 28, 2019, the survivor was travelling in car with others which was rammed into by a truck without a registration number plate. The survivor became doubly survived in the "accident". She emerged out of this episode critically injured, like her lawyer, but lost two aunts, all of whom were travelling in the same car. The police made Sengar, his brother, and few aides accused in the case.

NEWSMAKER

When Sengar was eventually convicted in the rape case, the nation heaved a sigh of relief, believing that he was done for life and an example had been set for the brute, unbridled power of the hinterland. But, his bail a few days back has brought back a sense of doom and fear of naked power.

Under public pressure, the CBI has decided to appeal against the HC order in the Supreme Court. But, will the power be fettered at the highest level? "We feel that the CBI has approached SC just for saving its face and to douse down the public anger against Delhi High Court order," says the survivor's counsel Mehmood Pracha.

This is Sengar's relevance in the Indian milieu!

SC to hear CBI's plea challenging Sengar's sentence on Monday

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear CBI's appeal challenging the Delhi High Court's order suspending the jail sentence of expelled BJP leader, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, in relation to the Unnao rape case on Monday.

The CBI filed a Special Leave Petition in the apex court against the order of the high court, officials said. The accused had approached the High Court seeking relief, a move that was strongly opposed by both the CBI and the victim's family. The CBI submitted timely replies and detailed written arguments, while the victim's family also contested the bail plea, citing concerns over safety and alleged threats.

It was decided to file an SLP before the Supreme Court at the earliest against the orders of the high court, which granted bail to Sengar after suspending his life sentence, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The CBI filed timely replies and written arguments in this matter. The family of the victim has also opposed the petition, citing safety and threats. The CBI will immediately challenge this order," the statement said.

Triggering widespread criticism over the security of the survivor, the Delhi HC on Tuesday suspended the life imprisonment awarded to Sengar and granted him bail on a personal bond of ₹15 lakh during the pendency of his appeal.

Sengar was convicted to life imprisonment for kidnapping and raping the minor girl by a trial court in December 2019.

According to the prosecution, the Unnao rape survivor, a minor, was kidnapped and raped by Sengar between June 11 to June 20, 2017 in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao area. She was then sold for ₹60,000, after which she was recovered at the Maakhi police station.

'1 Stop Centre' for women in distress in Canada launched

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

DAYS after a 30-year-old Indian woman was murdered in Canada with her partner being the prime suspect, the Consulate General of India in Toronto has officially launched a one-stop centre to assist women Indian nationals in distress.

"The Consulate General of India in Toronto has established 'One Stop Centre for Women' (OSCW), a dedicated support centre exclusively to assist women Indian nationals in distress (Indian passport holders only). These could be cases pertaining to domestic violence, abuse, family conflict, abandonment, exploitation and legal challenges, among others," said the official statement.

"The centre will provide coordinated, beneficiary-centred assistance by connecting aggrieved women to timely and appropriate support, including immediate counselling, coordination of legal assistance and advice, while helping them access relevant community and social-service resources in Canada within the purview of local laws," it added.

The consulate said the centre would be run by a woman administrator, who will ensure the delivery of safe, dignified, and comprehensive assistance to women in need through prompt handling of distress call via 24x7 helpline. "This will inter-alia would include counselling and emotional support through empanelled NGOs. All the financial assistance will be on means tested basis as per the government of India's rules," it said. "The centre would function from the Consulate General of India, Toronto. The Centre Administrator can be reached on +1 (437) 552 3309 and osc.toronto@mea.gov.in," the statement said.

> **The centre will provide coordinated, beneficiary-centred assistance by connecting aggrieved women to timely & appropriate support, including counselling, legal assistance, while helping them access relevant community and social-service resources in Canada within the purview of local laws** — Consulate General of India in Toronto

The centre adds to the list of services provided by the Indian Consulate, which includes passport services, visa services (business, tourist, entry, employment, student, research, intern, conference, journalist, medical, film, among others), OCI, police clearance certificates, and other miscellaneous consular services.

The launch of the centre comes after an Indian woman was found dead in Toronto on December 19. Toronto Police had responded to a call about a missing person in the Strachan Avenue and Wellington Street West area, and found the body of 30-year-old Himanshi Khurana. The death was classified as a homicide.

Shankh Air plans to launch domestic ops in Feb '26, go international in '28

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

SHANKH Air, the next airline to kick-start operations in the country, plans to make its debut in the first quarter of 2026. The airline will focus on domestic operations initially and plans to go international in a couple of years.

In an exclusive chat with this newspaper, Shankh Air Managing Director Shravan Kumar Vishwakarma expressed confidence about the financial position and operational capability of the airline.

"We plan to operate with five aircraft which we are purchasing from Bulgaria. Three Airbus A320 aircraft will reach us shortly and two A321 aircraft are expected to reach us by mid February. However, if there is some delay due to paperwork formalities, it could get delayed a bit. By the first quarter of 2026, we will definitely be running our services," he said.

The airline will first focus on operations inside Uttar Pradesh, he said, adding that it cannot be treated as a small airline. "We have Airbus aircraft with us. We also plan to cover Lucknow to Delhi and Lucknow to Mumbai. After stabilising our domestic operations, we plan to go international by 2029," Vishwakarma said.

The MD said that the airline is fully funded by its parent company, Shankh Trading.

"We are on a sound footing financially. Our aircraft are on lease plus finance but they are being funded by external banks," he said. Shankh Air has the requisite number of trained pilots at its disposal to start operations, Vishwakarma claimed. The airline will have its base in Noida and plans to have parking bays at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The airline will focus on bringing people who have never stepped into an aircraft to fly, he said. "We plan to stand out by offering excellent service. We are confident of drawing public to travel with us," he added.

The prices of the tickets will be minimum. "The target audience will be the middle class. We have no plans to hike our ticket fares too" he said.

Flight for first-time flyers

The airline is to focus on bringing people who have never stepped into an aircraft to fly. Shankh Air has the requisite number of trained pilots at its disposal to start operations, Vishwakarma claimed. The airline will have its base in Noida and plans to have parking bays at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.

CAPFs to carry out review of Group 'A' officers

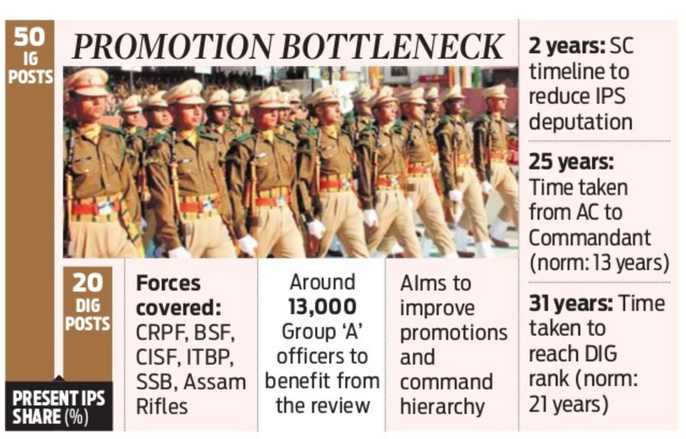
MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

MONTHS after the Supreme Court's directive, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to conduct the cadre review of their Group 'A' officers within a month, paving the way to address the issues of structural imbalances and stagnation in the forces.

The top court had asked the government to implement a cadre review of the Group 'A' officers of the CAPFs while recognising them as "Organised Services" for "all purposes".

The MHA circular said, "All Central Armed Police Forces are requested to undertake a comprehensive review of their existing Group 'A' cadres and submit detailed cadre review proposals to the Ministry." It further said that the proposal "may be furnished, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines, within one month for further examination."

The MHA directions have been issued to six CAPFs, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Assam Rifles.


PROMOTION BOTTLENECK
50 IG POSTS
20 DIG POSTS
PRESENT IPS SHARE (%)
Forces covered: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, Assam Rifles
Around 13,000 Group 'A' officers to benefit from the review
Aims to improve promotions and command hierarchy
2 years: SC timeline to reduce IPS deputation
25 years: Time taken from AC to Commandant (norm: 13 years)
31 years: Time taken to reach DIG rank (norm: 21 years)

A senior CAPF official termed the MHA's circular asking for a time-bound requirement of cadre review proposals a long-overdue move. He said, "This is a long-overdue cadre review exercise that can address the issues of structural imbalances and stagnation in the forces. The exercise will enhance officers' promotional avenues, command hierarchy and long-term career progression."

The official further said, "Under this exercise, data on Group A officers, along with relevant details, would be compiled, and proposals on how to improve the situation of stagnation at a particular post in CAPFs would be submitted to the ministry."

Another CAPF official said that presently, an officer who joins as Assistant Commandant (AC) takes 25 years to be promoted as a Commandant, whereas he or she should attain the seniority in 13 years. A DIG rank official said that he reached the position after 31 years in service, against the 21-year time required.

The Court in its judgement also ruled that the deputation posts of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) or up to the rank of Inspector General (IG) in CAPFs should be "progressively reduced over a period of time, say within an outer limit of two years".

However, in the meantime, MHA had approached the SC with a review petition, but the same was dismissed, paving the way for service rules or recruitment rules to be amended, allowing all connected benefits of Organised Group 'A' Services (OGAS) to the CAPFs and cadre review within six months.

Presently, 20 per cent of posts in the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and 50 per cent of posts in the rank of Inspector General (IG) in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers.

Now, with the MHA deciding to go for cadre review, around 13,000 CAPF Group 'A' officers are going to benefit.

NO VIOLENCE

The Anjuman Khuddam Syedzadgan, representing the khadims of the Ajmer Sharif Dargah on Saturday condemned the purported incidents of violence against religious minorities in Bangladesh and India.

3 ROBBERS HELD AFTER EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN HOSHIARPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	16	Mumbai	29	23
Bhopal	23	07	Panaji	32	19
Jaipur	23	09	Patna	19	12
Amritsar	19	06	Lucknow	19	09
Chennai	28	24	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	24	14	Imphal	22	09
Srinagar	11	-1	Chandigarh	20	07

MP's mother, sister and sons called for hearings

Four of TMC leader's family figure in 'no mapping' list during SIR

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

Zero FIR over lynching of migrant worker in Odisha

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Saturday that a zero FIR had been filed at the Suti police station of Murshidabad district in the alleged lynching case of a migrant worker from the state in Odisha's Sambalpur district. The CM also said that a police team from Bengal has travelled to Sambalpur to investigate the case. The victim, identified as Jewel Rana, was allegedly beaten to death following an altercation over a bidi in Sambalpur on Wednesday.

FOUR members of Trinamool Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar have been asked to appear for hearings under the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal, according to sources in the Election Commission (EC).

The octogenarian mother, sister and two sons, both doctors, of Kakoli, an MP from Barasat Lok Sabha constituency in 24 Parganas district, have been called for hearings, which began on Saturday. The poll panel served them notices for hearings because their names figured in the 'no mapping' lists of voters, which means that they could not establish their links in the enumeration forms to the 2002 electoral rolls, the sources said. A booth-level officer (BLO) will visit the MP's mother at her house to verify documents required for the SIR process, the sources added.

Kakoli's mother and sister are voters of Barasat while her two sons are Kolkata electors.

"The Commission has been calling people because it wants to delete anybody from voters' list at their whims. Just think about plights of common people when members of a people's representative faces such harassments," Kakoli told reporters on Saturday. "It is baffling why the names of my two sons—whose father is a former West Bengal minister and mother an MP for several terms—have not been mapped. It is also incomprehensible that the names of my octogenarian mother and sister—both long-time voters in Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district—were suddenly omitted from the draft electoral rolls," she said.

A senior official said, "The hearings under the second phase of SIR of the electoral rolls commenced on Saturday, with 3,234 centres set up across the state.

Around 32 lakh 'unmapped' voters, who are unable to establish their links to the 2002 electoral rolls, will be called for hearings in the first phase." Voters will be allowed to submit any of 12 recognised documents, including Aadhaar, as proof of identity and address, the official at the state Chief Electoral Officer's office said.

Bhandari videos keep BJP leaders on tenterhooks

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE BJP high command is reportedly growing anxious over a series of viral videos posted by actress Urmila Sanawar related to the sensational Ankita Bhandari murder case.

The party's national leadership has sought a detailed report on the situation. It is also keeping tabs on the developments.

In her videos that have caused a political uproar, the actress claims reveal crucial layers of the Bhandari murder. She has implied the involvement of senior party leaders. She has named several high-ranking party figures and shared purported call recordings and photographs linked to the matter, causing discomfort to BJP leaders in the state.

"The constant allegations being made live on social media daily are severely damaging the party's image," noted one state-level source familiar with the central leadership's thinking. The backlash has prompted a swift, albeit defensive, reactions from local leaders.

State BJP president Mahendra Bhatt initially sought to deflect blame onto the Opposition Congress party. But state incharge and National General Secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam has publicly expressed his distress and hinted that he could pursue legal action.

The row has added to the Opposition's push for a CBI probe.

All candidates must fight polls on 'familiar' clock symbol, Ajit tells uncle

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

TALKS between the NCP (SP) and the Ajit Pawar-led ruling NCP over an alliance for the next month's Pune civic polls have hit a roadblock, with the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister not agreeing to the Sharad Pawar-led party's proposal for contesting the elections on their respective symbols.

According to a senior NCP (SP) leader, Ajit spoke to them for an alliance, and later he also sought the list of candidates for the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporation elections. "We were shocked that after taking the list of our candidates, he asked us to contest on his party's clock symbol. He even poached some of the aspirants when we were seriously busy in seat-sharing talks. In this case, how can it be called an alliance? If our people get elected on Ajit Pawar's party symbol, how will they remain our elected members? They will be officially part of Ajit's NCP," the senior NCP (SP) leader said, requesting anonymity. He said top party leaders are against Ajit's strategy as it will shrink the NCP (SP)'s space in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad region.

"We wanted to conclude seat sharing, but Ajit Pawar continued to postpone the official announcement on seats for some reason or the other. He also poached several of our possible candidates. He assured them of funds and victory. Now, we are facing a crunch of candidates. We cannot trust Ajit Pawar anymore," said another NCP (SP) leader from Pune, adding that NCP SP city president Prashant Jagtap resigned and joined the Congress in protest.

Another leader said Ajit's stand has raised suspicion about his intention for an alliance. "Our leaders have called a meeting in Mumbai where the decision on an alliance with Ajit's NCP will be taken. We should contest as part of MVA," he said on the condition of anonymity.

Cracks appear ahead of high-stakes elections

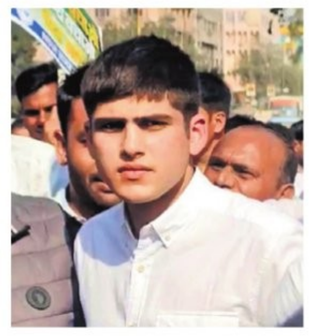
According to an NCP(SP) leader, Ajit spoke to them for an alliance, and later he also sought the list of candidates for the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporation elections. "We were shocked that he asked us to contest on his party's clock symbol," he said.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

Dhankhar makes quiet appearance in Jaipur

Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's quiet return to Jaipur on Thursday set political circles abuzz. On a one-day visit—his first since stepping down as the Vice-President—Dhankhar briefly interacted with the media, sharing warm memories of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Away from the spotlight for several months, Dhankhar chose to keep it low-key, having lunch with family at his brother Randeep Dhankhar's residence before meeting a senior Vishva Hindu Parishad leader. By the evening, he quietly drove back to Delhi. Notably, Dhankhar had largely vanished from public view after his sudden resignation in July.



Hard launch of junior Pilot Aarav at rally?

The Congress has seized the row over the Aravallis to train guns on the BJP. State president Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Jully have led protests in Jaipur and Alwar, while former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has kept the issue alive on social media. But it was AICC General Secretary Sachin Pilot's teenage son Aarav Pilot's presence at an NSUI rally in Jaipur to "save the Aravallis" that has got tongues wagging. Political observers are seeing the fresh-faced boy's appearance at the event as a symbolic launch, reading it as Pilot's bid to project himself as a seasoned leader with a long-term vision.

Social media storm over 'reel star' IAS officer

Barmer district collector Tina Dabi is back in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. Some students taking part in a protest at a girls' postgraduate college faced police action for allegedly calling her a "reel star," sparking political chatter and online furore. Dabi, however, dismissed the drama in a written statement to a private channel, calling it "an attempt to defame me and gain cheap popularity" on social media. Known for her academic brilliance and penchant for making reels, Dabi frequently finds herself in the headlines. Now, the debate has shifted to whether administrative officers should face restrictions on creating reels.

Army intensifies anti-terror ops in Kishtwar, Doda

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

HIGHLY placed sources in the defence establishment reveal that the Indian Army has intensified its counter-terrorism operations across the Kishtwar and Doda districts.

Army units, along with the other security forces, have expanded their operational reach into higher and snowbound areas to pursue and neutralise Pakistani terrorists attempting to exploit the harsh season for concealment, said sources

Traditionally, the onset of Chillai Kalan—the harshest phase of Kashmir's winter spanning from December 21 to January 31—is marked by a temporary lull in terrorist activities, as communication routes close and heavy snowfall isolates mountain regions.

A source revealed, "The Army has adopted a proactive winter posture, establishing temporary bases and surveillance posts deep within snow-covered areas to maintain unbroken pressure on possible terrorist hideouts."

Operating in sub-zero temperatures with limited visibility, Army patrols have been regularly traversing high-altitude ridgelines, valleys, and forested areas to deny terrorists any sanctuary.

Names of 10.56 lakh voters deleted as Assam draft roll out after special revision

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE names of 10.56 lakh voters have been deleted after the conduct of Special Revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Assam.

According to the integrated draft rolls released by the Election Commission on Saturday, 4,78,992 names were deleted because of deaths, 5,23,680 voters were found to have moved from their registered addresses, while 53,619 demographically similar entries were identified for correction. The state has 2,51,09,754 voters, excluding 93,021 D-voters or doubtful voters. They belong to a category of voters who have been disenfranchised by the government on account of lack of proper citizenship credentials.

Their cases are dealt with by special tribunals. If a person is declared as a D-voter, he or she is not issued a voter card. The publication of the draft rolls followed house-to-house verification conducted from November 22 to December 20.

The verification was carried out at 61,03,103 households across the state with the involvement of 35 district election officers, 126 electoral registration officers, 1,260 AEROs, over 29,656 booth-level officers (BLOs) and 2,578 BLO supervisors. Political parties appointed 61,533 booth-level Agents (BLAs) to assist and monitor the process.

"In Assam, the purification of electoral rolls during the current special revision (SR) cycle is a meticulous administrative effort focused on enhancing the integrity of the electoral roll ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections," an official statement said, adding, "The purification drive aims to prepare an error-free electoral roll by facilitating enrolment of eligible un-enrolled electors, correction of clerical errors in such as name, age, address, etc, removing names of deceased persons, shifting of electors, identifying and deleting multiple entries where a single elector is registered in more than polling station or constituency."

'Save Aravalli, Save Life' drive gains currency in Rajasthan

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

SC takes suo motu cognisance of Aravalli issue

The Supreme Court on Saturday took suo motu cognisance of issues pertaining to the definition of the Aravallis amid concerns of unchecked and illegal mining. A three-judge bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices J JK Maheshwari & Augustine George Masih will hear it on Monday.

THE Congress on Saturday intensified its agitation across all districts in Rajasthan over the exclusion of hills below 100 metres from the Aravalli range across all districts.

Under the banner of 'Save Aravalli – Save Life', state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Juli participated in a major protest organised by the Alwar district party committee. In Jaipur, Congress leaders and workers marched from the PCC headquarters to Shaheed Smarak, raising slogans against the Centre and the state government. On Friday, the NSUI and Youth Congress organised protest marches joined by Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot.

The agitation has gained momentum across the state, drawing participation from thousands. Protesters say excluding hills below 100 metres could lead to severe and irreversible environmental damage.

Addressing the gathering, Juli alleged that a deliberate conspiracy was underway to destroy the Aravalli range. He warned that while affluent sections might escape the consequences, local communities would be left to face environmental devastation. "The Congress will continue its struggle until the Aravallis receive complete protection," he added.

In Jaipur, city Congress submitted a memorandum to the Police Commissioner addressed to the President. Protests in several districts turned confrontational. In Dausa, Congress workers attempted to force their way into a locked Dak Bungalow meeting hall. In Ajmer, tensions escalated when police objected to the use of a DJ system during the march, leading to clashes. Similar confrontations were reported from Dholpur.

In Tonk, Deputy CM Premchand Bairwa defended the government's position. "The Aravalli range is a national heritage. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Union ministers have made it clear that the Aravallis are already protected and reserved.

No harm will be allowed. Attempts to politicise the issue are unacceptable," he said. Activists demanded stronger legal safeguards, emphasising that the Aravalli range is not merely a chain of hills but a vital ecological shield that sustains groundwater, biodiversity, and life across Rajasthan. The Centre and the state governments were accused of colluding with mining mafia to facilitate environmental destruction.

Biz hit in walled city of Amritsar after holy tag

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN LIMBO

1. The move is aimed at preserving the sanctity of the area surrounding the Golden Temple
2. But local traders affected by it, staring at loss of work, lament that they have not been given enough time to relocate

THE Punjab government's decision to ban the sale of meat, alcohol and tobacco in the "holy cities," including the walled city of Amritsar, has left local traders in limbo.

The move, aimed at preserving the sanctity of the area surrounding the Golden Temple, comes as a bolt from the blue for hundreds of families and their generations-old businesses as around 150 establishments selling such items are forced to shut shop. The step has irked local shopkeepers and vendors, who have decided to approach the Amritsar Deputy Commissioner, the municipal corporation commissioner and the mayor to hand over a memorandum to them in this regard. They also held a meeting in Gol Bagh to discuss the matter. They suggested that the implementation of the move should limited to an area demarcated around the Golden Temple and the Durgiana Mandir.

Gurjeet Singh owner of Gurjeet Fish Company, said, "Our demand is simple. The fish season is starting in January. It will last till April. We shouldn't have to relocate till then. Further, the government should provide us a suitable spot within Amritsar."

A wholesale fish trader in Amritsar, Yuvraj Singh, expressed concern over the move. "Nearly 60,000 people are linked to the fish trade, supplying fish across Punjab and neighbouring states, doing business worth several crores of rupees," he noted, adding that these traders are staring at loss of work if the market is shifted without proper rehabilitation.

Saranjit Singh, a shopkeeper, said, "We respect the government's decision to keep the sanctity and holiness of the city intact. But our concerns must be addressed. We haven't been given enough time to shift."

Senior Punjab BJP leader Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina voiced similar concerns, saying, "The fish market running in the walled city should first have been shifted first. It should have been allotted a proper location before the implementation of the step.'

Amritsar Hotel and Restaurant Association president Surinder Singh said the excise department had not issued liquor vend licences within the walled city: "The government decision will not impact around 650 hotels and guest houses near the Golden Temple as they do not serve liquor or non-vegetarian food to pilgrims."

A survey by the Amritsar Municipal Corporation has identified some 150 shops and street vendors to be removed.

Spanish woman on waste cleaning mission on U'khand's trekking routes

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

We would clean the same paths only to see them littered again within days. Merely removing trash is insufficient. The core challenge lies in changing the attitude.

Colil

A Spanish woman, Jaima Colil, has taken on the task of clearing Uttarakhand's high-altitude trekking routes of waste, hauling over 200 kilograms of refuse down treacherous slopes.

What began as a simple holiday for the graphic designer turned into a dedicated environmental mission across India's roof. Colil, originally from Spain, says she was stunned by the volume of plastic and discarded gear littering sacred Himalayan trails, including those she hiked in Nepal.

"Instead of turning back, I decided to stay and confront the problem myself," Colil stated, reflecting on the contrast between European trekking norms and the situation here.

Today, Colil spearheads the '108 Peak Campaign,' symbolically named after the auspicious number in Indian culture, aiming to cleanse 108 routes. Since its launch in 2023, she has trekked to oxygen-thinning heights, carrying heavy sacks of garbage. Her efforts gained crucial local momentum when she partnered with Manoj Rana, a trekker from Lohajung village in Chamoli.

"The initial effort was disheartening; we would clean the same paths only to see them littered again within days," Rana admitted. "That cycle forced us to evolve this into a structured campaign combining clean-up with serious awareness."

Colil stresses that merely removing trash is insufficient. The core challenge lies in changing the attitude. The duo now conduct awareness sessions at local schools and engage with village women, viewed as vital agents for shifting household practices regarding waste management. "It is a profound contradiction," Colil noted, observing how reverence for the Himalayas clashes with the casual pollution.

Meanwhile, as the tourism industry booms, environmentalists are sounding the alarm about the impact of waste on water sources and wildlife.

20
US defence firms sanctioned by China over latest Taiwan arms sales

Russia launches missile and drone assault on Kyiv ahead of peace talks

1 killed, 27 injured; energy & civilian infra hit as Zelenskyy travels to meet Trump

KYIV

RUSSIA attacked Ukraine's capital with missiles and drones early Saturday morning, killing one person and wounding 27, a day before talks between Ukraine and the US, authorities said.

Explosions boomed across Kyiv for hours as ballistic missiles and drones hit the city. The attack began in the early morning hours Saturday and was continuing as day broke.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to meet with US President Donald Trump in Florida on Sunday for further talks on ending the nearly 4-year-old war.

Zelenskyy told reporters he was on a plane en route to Florida on Saturday afternoon, and would stop in Canada on the way to meet Prime Minister Mark Carney. Zelenskyy said he and Trump plan to discuss issues including security guarantees and territorial issues in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday that it carried out a "massive strike" overnight, using "long-range precision-guided weapons from land, air and sea, including Kinzhal hypersonic aeroballistic missiles" and drones. It said it targeted energy infrastructure facilities used by Ukraine's forces and military-industrial enterprises.

The ministry said the strike came in response to Ukraine's attacks on "civilian objects" in Russia. Earlier on Saturday, the ministry said its air defenses shot down seven Ukrainian drones over the Russian regions of Krasnodar and Adygeya overnight.

Poland scrambled fighter jets and closed airports in Lublin and Rzeszow near the border with Ukraine for several hours during the Russian attacks, the country's armed forces command said on X.

There was no violation of Polish airspace, it said. Civil aviation authority Pansa said the two airports had since resumed operations. It was unclear what caused the alert in Poland when the Russian attacks were focused on Kyiv, which is far from the border.

Russia targeted Ukraine with 519 drones and 40 missiles, Ukraine's air force said. The main target was energy and civilian infrastructure in Kyiv, Zelenskyy said. In some districts of the region there is no electricity or heating because of the attacks, he added.

"Today Russia demonstrated how it responds to peace talks between Ukraine and the United States on ending Russia's war against Ukraine. They carried out massive attacks on Ukraine precisely as we move toward peace negotiations," said Zelenskyy, speaking to reporters via audio note while traveling. "That is Russia's response." *AP*

Rescue workers clear the rubble of a residential building which was heavily damaged after a Russian strike on Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

ASIA MATTERS

MAN LINKED TO NILAI EXPLOSION HELD

Police arrested an individual suspected of being involved in an IED explosion in Desa Palma, Nilai, on December 22. Negeri Sembilan police chief Datuk Alzafny Ahmad said the man, known as Yeoh Hock Sun or Ayang, 62, was arrested Saturday in Mantin. Police also found 31 more IEDs in his house, all of which were destroyed

Residents waving Somaliland flags as they gather to celebrate Israel's announcement recognising Somaliland's statehood in downtown Hargeisa | AFP

African bloc rejects Israel's Somaliland recognition move

NAIROBI

AFRICA's regional governance bodies on Saturday rejected the recognition of Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland as an independent nation by Israel a day earlier, the first by any country in more than 30 years.

Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 amid a descent into conflict and, despite having its own government and currency, had never been recognised by any nation in the world until Friday. The African Union Chairperson, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, said any attempt to undermine Somalia's sovereignty risks peace and stability on the continent.

He said that the commission "firmly rejects any initiative or action aimed at recognising Somaliland as an independent entity, recalling that Somaliland remains an integral part of the Federal Republic of Somalia."

Somalia's federal government on Friday strongly rejected what it described as an unlawful move by Israel to recognise Somaliland, reaffirming that the northern region remains an integral part of Somalia's sovereign territory. It was not known why Israel made the declaration at this time or whether it was expecting something in return.

Earlier this year, US and Israeli officials told The Associated Press that Israel had approached Somaliland about taking in Palestinians from Gaza as part of Donald Trump's plan at the time to resettle the territory's population. The United States has since abandoned that plan. Netanyahu's office said on Friday that he, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, and Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, signed a joint declaration "in the spirit of the Abraham Accords." *AP*

DE-ESCALATION

Saudi-led forces warn of reply to Yemen separatists

CAIRO

THE Saudi-led coalition in Yemen warned Saturday it would immediately respond to any military movements of separatists backed by the United Arab Emirates that undermine de-escalation efforts in the southern region of Yemen, as the United States urged diplomacy.

"Any military movements that violate these efforts will be dealt with directly and immediately in order to protect civilian lives and ensure the success of restoring calm," said Brig. Gen. Turki al-Maliki, a coalition spokesman, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Al-Maliki also accused the Southern Transitional Council, or STC, separatists of "serious and horrific human rights violations against civilians," without providing evidence.

This came a day after separatists accused Saudi Arabia of targeting their forces with airstrikes, something not formally acknowledged by the kingdom, whose relations with the UAE have been strained because of STC actions. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement Saturday that his country was "concerned by recent events in southeastern Yemen" and urged restraint and diplomacy to reach "a lasting solution." He also expressed gratitude "for the diplomatic leadership of our partners, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates."

Yemen, engulfed in a civil war for more than a decade, has the Iran-aided Houthis controlling much of the northern regions, while a Saudi-UAE-backed coalition supports the internationally recognised governmen. *AP*

Tarique Rahman rejoins B'desh voter roll after 17 years in exile in London

DHAKA

BNP acting chairman **Tarique Rahman** on Saturday completed the formalities to enlist himself on Bangladesh's voter list and obtain a national identity (NID) card, two days after his return from over 17 years of self-exile in London. The 60-year-old leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) visited the Election Commission (EC) office in Dhaka under tight security, where he provided fingerprints and iris scans for biometric enrollment, news portal tbsnews.net reported.

He earlier submitted his voter registration application online, officials said. "Tarique Rahman has already filled out the online form and has come to complete the registration by providing his fingerprints and iris scan," ASM Humayun Kabir, director general of the National Identity Registration Wing of the Election Commission, told reporters. He is expected to receive his NID card within 24 hours, the official said.

Rahman's daughter Zaima also completed her registration formalities for the NID card.

Foolproof security arrangements were in place around the EC office premises, with members of the Bangladesh Army, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Ansar and police deployed in and around the area.

According to a report in Bengali daily Prothom Alo, Bangladesh first introduced a voter list with photographs and biometric data in 2008 during the military-backed caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed that followed the 2007-2008 political crisis.

Rahman, son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, was a political prisoner at that time. *PTI*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my client Sri. Venkatnathan Raghavachari, aged about 80 years, residing at Flat No.B-904, Sattva Melody, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru–560039, intends to purchase the Schedule Property more fully described hereunder from Smt.Pallavi Deepak, aged about 54 years, W/o. Late Deepak Krishnamurthy, residing at Bengaluru – 560062.

Any person or persons having any objection, claim, right, title, interest, lien, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever in respect of the said property are hereby called upon to lodge their claims with the undersigned, along with documentary proof, within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing which, it shall be presumed that there are no claims or objections from any quarter, and my client shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property without any further reference.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing **Flat No. 403,** situated at **Ravi Kiran Apartments,** 4th Main Road, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560003, measuring 1220 sq. ft., consisting of Two BHK, along with one car parking space, bearing Khata No.80/22, PID No. 7-3-80/22, BBMP PID No. 2940788165, situated in Ward No. 65, Bengaluru.

G.V.Ravi, Advocate
Ravi Law Associates
No. 15/1, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003
Mobile No: 9448849150.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 26.12.2025

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
BALANGIR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-mail-sebalangir@gmail.com

2nd corrigendum to notice "e-Procurement Notice No.ACE, BOIC-06/2025-26
BID Identification No.ACE, BOIC-06/2025-26

A-1199: Due to Technical Issues the 2nd corrigendum to: **e-Procurement Notice No. ACE, BOIC - 06/2025-26** for the work **1. Construction of Inspection Bunglow (I.B) At-Padampur under Ong Dam Division, Padampur for the financial year 2025-26, 2. Construction of Office Cum Rest Shed at village Darlipali under Ong Dam Division, Padampur for the financial year 2025-26, 3. Construction of (G+1) style D-type Quarter in the Irrigation Colony for use by Staff of Ong Dam Division, Padampur for the financial year 2025-26** are hereby made as follows.

Sl. No	As per Notice Inviting Tender.		Modified to/ Read as per 2nd Corrigendum.
1.	Period of availability of bidding document in the portal .	From Dt.11.12.2025 from 10.00 AM to Dt.02.01.2026 upto 5.30 PM	From Dt.29.12.2025 from 10.00 AM to Dt.19.01.2026 upto 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids	Date- 02.01.2026 upto 5.30 PM	Date- 19.01.2026 upto 5.30 PM
3.	Time and Date of opening of Technical Bid.	Date- 03.01.2026 at 11.00 hours.	Date- 20.01.2026 at 11.00 hours.

All other Terms and Conditions remain unchanged.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

OIPR-32347/11/0012/2526

Sd/- ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, BALANGIR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BALANGIR

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066.
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets:	(1) Total Dues (2) Auction Date & Time	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time EMD deposited date
1	**(1) M/s. Jyotsnareddy Hospital Private Limited,** Maruthi Patalappa Complex No 9, Akshaynagar TC Palya Main Road, Kowedenahalli, Banglore-560016. **(2) Mr. Dr. Y Raghavendra Reddy** S/o Y Narapa Reddy, No. 308, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, 8th E Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Banglore-560043. **(3) Mrs. K Pramoda** D/o K Ramachandra Reddy, No. 12-3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma Kalyanamandapam, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh-515001. **(4) Mrs. Yerragunta Hemavathi,** D. No. 12-2-416, 3rd Cross, Harihara Nagar West, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh-515001. **(5) Mrs. K Chennakesavamma** W/o K Ramachandra Reddy, No. 12- 3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma Kalyana mandapam, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh-515001. **(6) Shri. K Ramachandra Reddy** S/o K Obi Reddy, No. 12- 3-790, Jesus Nagar, Near Jayamannamma, Kalyanamandapam, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh-515001.	**Item No.1: As per registered sale deed No.211/2005.** Residential Building situated within Anantpur Municipal Corporation Area within the SRD and RD of Anantpur, at Ward No. 12, Sy. No.284/2, Plot No.7, LP No.26/63, Jesus Nagar, Anantpur Municipal Corporation, Anantapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh. Bounded by East by: Plot No. 12, South by : Remaining Portion of Plot in plot No 7 belongs to K Ramachandra Reddy, West by : 40 Feet Road, North by: Plot No. 6, Measuring East to west 72 feet and North to South 24 feet a total of 1728 sq. ft. or 193.6 Sq. Yds. **Item No.2: As per registered sale deed No.212/2005.** Residential Building situated within Anantpur Municipal Corporation Area within the SRD and RD of Anantpur, at Ward No. 12, Sy. No.284/2, Plot No.7, LP No.26/63, Jesus Nagar, Anantpur Municipal Corporation, Anantapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh. Bounded by : East by : Plot No. 12, South by : House of V Venkatarami Reddy, West by : 40 Feet Road, North by : Remaining Portion of Plot in plot No 7 belongs to K Chennakesavamma Measuring East to west 72 feet and North to South 36 feet a total of 2592 sq. ft. or 290.04 Sq. yds. The above items Nos. a and b are adjacent plots. Mrs. K Chennakesavamma and Mr. K Ramachandra Reddy constructed a house bearing Door no 12-3-790 Asst No. 1001046170 on it.	**Rs. 14,87,29,198.84 (Rupees Fourteen Crores Eighty Seven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousands One Hundred Ninety Eight And Paisa Eighty Four Only) as on 21.12.2025.** **17.01.2026 & 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM**	a) Rs.2,31,15,000.00 b) Rs. 23,11,500.00 c) Rs. 2,00,000.00	**01.01.2026 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** **before 16.01.2026 5.00 PM**
2	**(1) Mr.Mallikarjuna Setty R,** S/o R Satyanarayana Setty, Flat No.102, Door No.79, Vishal Apartments, 2 E A T Street, Near Puliyogare Point, Basavanagudi, Karnataka-560004. **Address 2 : Mr.Mallikarjuna Setty R** S/o R Satyanarayana Setty, Site No.206, Sy No.16,17,18 And 19, Visvesvaraya Road, Girinagar 4th Phase Gere Halli Village, Kasaba Ho Bangalore North, Bangalore Karnataka-562123, **(2) Mrs. Sujatha N,** W/o Mr.Mallikarjuna Setty R, Flat No.102, Door No.79, Vishal Apartments, 2 E A T Street, Near Puliyogare Point, Basavanagudi, Karnataka-560004. **Address 2 : Mrs Sujatha N,** W/o Mr.Mallikarjuna Setty R, No 27 (Old No 26), Shop Street, N R Colony, Bangalore, Karnataka-560004	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : ITEM NO.1:** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 2 Acres 30 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, West by: Land in Sy.No.6, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Land in Sy.No.122 **ITEM NO.2 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 10 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Land in Sy.No.106, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1. **ITEM NO.3 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 29 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1. **ITEM NO.4 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 15 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1 **ITEM NO.5 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 15 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1 **ITEM NO.6 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 14 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1. **ITEM NO.7 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 14 Guntas in the Survey Number 7/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Remaining Land in same Sy.No.8. **ITEM NO.8 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 1 Acre 30 Guntas in the Survey Number 8 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.102/1 & 102/2, West by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, North by: Remaining Land in same Sy.No.7/1, South by : Land in Sy.No.9. **ITEM NO.9 :** All the piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 2 Acres 20 Guntas in the Survey Number 102/1 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.101, West by: Land in Sy.No.8, North by: Land in Sy.No.103 & 106, South by : Land in Sy.No.102/2. **ITEM NO.10 :** All the piece and parcel of residentially converted property Survey No.106, measuring 2 Acres 01 Gunta situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.107, West by: Shamanna Land, North by: Yashodamma Land, South by : Land in Sy.No.102/1. **ITEM NO.11 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 1 Acre 17 Guntas and 1 Gunta Kharab in the Survey Number 107 situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.106, West by: Land in Sy.No.7/1, North by: Land in Sy.No.121, South by : Land in Sy.No.102/1. **ITEM NO.12 :** All that piece and parcel of residentially converted property, measuring 23 Guntas and 1 Gunta Kharab in the Survey Number 121/1(Old Sy No.121) situated at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by: Land in Sy.No.120, West by: Land in Sy.No.122, North by: Land in Sy.No.121/2, South by : Land in Sy.No.106/107. **SCHEDULE B PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of residential Plot bearing No.49 and forming part of Schedule A property, carved out of residentially converted Survey Number 7/1, in the Layout known as 'MANAR PURE EARTH' and measuring East to West 12 Mtrs and North to South 9 Mtrs, totally measuring 108 Sq.Mtrs(1163 Sqft) and bounded on: East by: Site No.66, West by: Road, North by: Site No.50, South by : Site No.48. **SCHEDULE C PROPERTY :** Residential Independent Villa No.49 constructed in Schedule B property measuring 1838 Square Feet of Super built up area.	**Rs. 82,05,846.05 (Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six And Paisa Five Only) as on date with further interest and cost thereon.** **12.01.2026 & 10.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.**	a) Rs.53,24,000.00 b) Rs. 5,32,400.00 c) Rs.1,00,000.00	**02-01-2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** **before 09.01.2026 5.00 PM**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.6301683293 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 27.12.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

$700 MN Approved by the World Bank on Friday for Pakistan aimed at supporting macroeconomic stability and service delivery

Trouble in air: Aviation sector in fright mode

The sector saw deadliest plane crash, chaos in air over revised FDTL and financial loss due to rising dollar and war

India-Pakistan conflict in early May led to temporary closure of airports across border areas. It also led to closure of Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers

RUNWAY INCURSION

An Air India Boeing **787** Dreamliner carrying **242** passengers and crew crashed on June 12. Final investigation report yet to be out

AN OPERATIONAL BREAKDOWN AT INDIGO IN EARLY DECEMBER LED TO THOUSANDS OF PASSENGERS GETTING STRANDED AT AIRPORTS IN INDIA

Losses continue for airlines. After reporting **₹5,290 CR** loss in FY2025, the sector is projected to report a wider net loss of **₹9,500-10,500 CRORE** in FY2026

The govt gives NOC to three airlines — Shankh Air, Al Hind Air & FlyExpress

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

FROM a fatal crash to flight cancellations like never before, India's aviation sector had one stressful 2025. The two major events, coupled with soaring jet fuel prices, an unfavourable forex rate, and geopolitical tension, especially after the Indo-Pak clash, only added to the woes of airlines and, subsequently, passengers.

The Air India crash

In one of the most tragic accidents, an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed on June 12. Flight number AI-171, bound for London, lost altitude moments after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. A total of 260 people, including 241 passengers and crew members died. Only one passenger survived.

What followed after the crash was inspection of the Boeing Dreamliner aircraft, compensation to the family members of the deceased and an investigation to determine the cause. However, even after six months, there has been no concrete answer to many questions. An interim report by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) was released in July, but critics and pilot bodies condemned it for unfairly focusing on the actions of the pilots and diverting attention away from a possible fault with the aircraft.

The preliminary report stated that the aircraft's front enhanced airborne flight recorder revealed that the crash was caused by the loss of thrust in both engines after their fuel control switches moved from RUN to CUTOFF three seconds after liftoff. No cause for the switch movement was given in the report. The Centre earlier this month said that the investigation is still in progress.

Mass cancellation by IndiGo

An operational breakdown at IndiGo, which controls roughly two-thirds of the domestic traffic, in early December led to thousands of passengers getting stranded at airports in India. Flyers lost countless hours, suffered harrowing experiences and even spent a fortune to find an alternative option as airfares on select routes surged over 10-fold.

IndiGo cancelled more than 5,000 flights due to a severe crew shortage, especially pilots, following revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms introduced last month. New regulations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) mandated longer crew rest and fewer night landings, but IndiGo failed to hire enough staff.

The government intervened and initiated an inquiry with the aviation minister K. Rammohan Naidu stating that strict action will be taken against the operator to set an example for other airlines. Following the disruptions, the DGCA directed IndiGo to reduce its winter schedule by 10% and issued show-cause notices to the airline's CEO, Pieter Elbers, and COO, Isidre Porqueras. A four-member panel that probed the massive flight disruptions at IndiGo earlier this week has submitted its report to the DGCA.

Finish Line 2025

Financial loss

India's aviation sector is likely to suffer heavy losses in CY2025/FY2025-26. In November, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were up 4.4% year-on-year. With fuel accounting for 30-40% of airlines' operating costs, sustained price escalations remain a key area of concern for the industry.

Leasing aircraft, which are tied to long-term dollar contracts, has emerged as a tension for carriers as the rupee continues to slide. InterGlobe Aviation, IndiGo's parent, reported a net loss of ₹2,582 crore in Q2FY26 due to adverse currency movements on dollar-denominated obligations.

While the intensity of price wars has reduced in the industry, airlines have started taking hits due to geopolitical tensions. Air India in October informed that it has incurred losses of ₹4,000 crore over the past few months due to restrictions on flying over Pakistan since April 2025.

The sector also continues to face supply chain bottlenecks and engine failure-related aircraft groundings, said ICRA. While Indian carriers reported a net loss of ₹924 crore in FY24, the figure widened to ₹5,290 crore in FY25. ICRA expects the industry's financial performance to remain under pressure with the sector projected to report a wider net loss of ₹9,500-10,500 crore in FY26. Passenger traffic growth is also likely to slow down.

CareEdge Ratings projects passenger traffic at Indian airports to reach 430 million in FY26, down from its earlier estimate of 445 million.

Positives

Despite severe turbulence, the industry also had its positive moments. IndiGo operations stabilised within weeks after the DGCA withdrew the new weekly roster norm about weekly rest for pilots. Another major milestone for IndiGo this year was launching direct flights to Europe and briefly becoming the world's most valuable airline.

Air India also expanded its reach and fleet size. The airline completed the retrofit programme for its legacy A320neo fleet. Akasa Air raised fresh capital from investors to support future growth plans while the government gave NOC to three airlines — Shankh Air, Al Hind Air and FlyExpress — to increase competitiveness in the skies as two players now control 90% of the market.

NEWSCOPE

WARNER BROS. BID HEATS UP AS CONTEST SHRINKS

GURBIR SINGH

NETFLIX'S move, announced on December 5, to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) for a gargantuan $83 billion, and the counter hostile bid by Paramount for $108 billion has roiled Hollywood and the corporate entertainment world. It signals the tight monopoly of the Big entertainment players — Disney, Paramount, Warner Bros., Sony Pictures and Comcast, has got even tighter; and that its now all down to streaming, and the days of the 'Big Screen' are close to the end.

Through the acquisition, Netflix's co-CEO Ted Sarandos said the streaming giant hoped to acquire a film and series content library historically stretching nearly a century from super hits like Citizen Kane and Casablanca to the more recent Harry Potter and Friends.

Paramount, which lost its bid to Netflix, however has decided it will not give up without a fight. It has made a hostile bid of about $108 billion, but the WBD board expressed doubts whether it was guaranteed real money. By December 17, the board officially rejected the Paramount offer citing an 'opaque' financial structure. This included several iffy Middle East investors backing the bid, and Paramount's controlling family — the Ellisons — not personally committing sufficient funds.

In response, by December 22, tech titan and chief of Oracle, Larry Ellison, also the father of the Paramount CEO David Ellison, personally guaranteed $40.4 billion in equity needed for Paramount's proposed takeover of Warner Bros. The revised December 22 offer however has not changed the bid offer of $30 a share or a total valuation of $108 billion.

Warner Bros. investors now have until January 21, extended from January 8, to accept or reject the new, firmer offer. So far, the WBD board continues to lean in favour of Netflix.

Failed M&As

Historically, Warner Bros. has had a disastrous record of mergers and acquisitions wherein shareholders have lost out. Respected management analyst Roger Martin has probed each of the deals — the first in 2001 when AOL bought Time Warner when the company was valued at $166 billion. The other was in 2018 when AT&T bought Time Warner for $85 billion.

The AOL Time Warner deal crashed soon after it was signed when it was realized that AOL was largely a worthless company that was later spun off for a mere $3 billion in 2009. But Time Warner shareholders were bamboozled into giving up 55% of their company in exchange for an asset worth just $3 billion.

Miller also documents how the AT&T Time Warner deal in 2018 turned out to be a disastrous acquisition, and, a mere three years later, Time Warner

MANDAR PARDIKAR

assets were sold to Discovery for just $43 billion — a massive discount from the original price of $85 billion. In the third round for Warner Bros.', are things again spinning out of control?

The stakes are big this time. Netflix will grab more than 400 million subscribers worldwide, furthering its market dominance. On the other hand, Paramount's takeover would combine two major film studios and two leading news organisations, *CNN* and *CBS News*, under the Ellison family's control.

The driver for both Netflix and Paramount to acquire Warner Bros. is to get their hands on vast content and titles which they don't have. For Netflix, it has huge aggregated, streaming content, but producing blockbuster movies has evaded its portfolio so far. A studio like Warner Bros. will fill that gap.

In the case of Paramount, it will get critical scale by combining two major film studios, Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros., streaming services, *Paramount+* and *HBO Max*, and networks with reach like *CNN*, *TBS*, and *Discovery*. Projections suggest the merged entity could garner 200 million subscribers, and generate $70 billion in annual revenue.

Competition evaporates

Over time, the top of the media & entertainment (M&E) pyramid is getting thinner. Fewer players is having a negative impact on the choice of entertainment available for consumers as well as on editorial freedom available to news networks.

Paramount itself is a new, bigger entity after merging with the Ellison family promoted Skydance Media 6 months ago in a deal valued at $8 billion. Earlier, Walt Disney Company bought out Rupert Murdoch's competitor studio, 21st Century Fox, in 2019.

The last decade has been a scramble for content as the big screen eclipsed, and streaming services changed the game. What we are therefore seeing is a buying spree by Disney over the last 10-15 years which included big franchises such as Marvel, Star Wars and Pixar Studios — all dedicated to increasing the subscriber penetration of the streaming platform Disney Plus.

It is also significant that as competition shrinks in media and entertainment, US news networks are also being squeezed. CBS, Paramount's powerful news outlet, was facing a lawsuit filed by Donald Trump, at a time when the Paramount-Skydance merger came up for approval before US regulator, the FCC. By then Donald Trump was in his second term of president.

Though the lawsuit alleging election interference was considered baseless, Paramount agreed to pay $16 million to settle the case to ensure the FCC approved the merger. Paramount also shut down 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert', a critic of Trump, and hired Bari Weiss, a Trump accolade, as editor-in-chief of *CBS News*. One does not have to strain too much to guess what will happen to the openly anti-Trump news network, Warner Bros.' *CNN*, if and when Paramount takes over.

SIP inflows top ₹3 lakh crore for the first time in 2025

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE systematic investment plans (SIPs), which have been attracting steady inflows since the COVID-19 pandemic, with monthly inflows topping at Rs 30,000 crore-mark, have set a new benchmark in 2025 with the annual cumulative inflows crossing ₹3 lakh crore-mark for the first time.

Inflows into SIP have been rising steadily, despite the steep volatility in the market this year as investors are increasingly relying on the staggered investment route amid market volatility, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) said.

According to the AMFI data, investors have pumped in a whopping ₹3.04 lakh crore into MF schemes through SIPs until November against ₹2.69 lakh crore in 2024. The monthly SIP inflows stood at ₹29,445 crore in November, up from ₹25,320 crore in November 2024. "SIPs have emerged as preferred long-term wealth-building habit, helping investors to maintain discipline through market volatility while steadily deepening equity participation across market cycles," said Venkat Chalasani, CEO of AMFI.

"SIPs have emerged as one of the strongest and most reliable engines of growth for the MF industry, contributing significantly to both asset expansion and investor participation. By November, SIP assets under management reached ₹16.53 lakh crore, accounting for more than 20.3% of the industry's total AUM, highlighting their pivotal role in boosting long-term asset accumulation," ICRA Analytics said in a recent report.

As of November, the industry AUM stood at ₹80.8 lakh crore, up from ₹68 lakh crore in November 2024, registering an on-year growth of 18.7% and nearly tripling over the past five years, posting an annual growth of 21.91%.

The AUM was ₹70 lakh crore in May, and within the next six months, it crossed the ₹80 lakh crore-mark, despite global uncertainties.

Centre notifies Colliery Control Rules, 2025

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN a move aimed at boosting coal production in India, the Centre has notified the Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2025, in which coal miners will no longer be required to wait for written permission from the Coal Controller to open a mine. As per the new framework, the approval authority has been delegated to the company's Board of Directors. The new rules came into effect on December 23.

The amendment specifically targets Rule 9 of the Colliery Control Rules, 2004, fundamentally altering the approval mechanism for opening new mines, developing new coal seams, and restarting discontinued mining operations.

As per the minister, the reform could reduce the time required to operationalise a mine by up to two months.

Coffee Day Global to clear ₹40 cr debt of RARE ARC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

COFFEE Day Enterprises Limited (CDEL) on Saturday announced that its material subsidiary, Coffee Day Global Limited, has reached an in-principle One Time Settlement (OTS) agreement with RARE Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (RARE ARC). The deal aims to resolve outstanding loans previously held by major financial institutions.

It covers loans originally assigned to RARE ARC by Karnataka Bank Limited, RBL Bank Ltd, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited. As per terms of the agreement, Coffee Day will settle all dues of ₹40 crore.

The payment is structured in two distinct tranches. In the first tranche, ₹25 crore would be paid immediately upon acceptance of the OTS. This initial payment is expected to be funded through the sale of mortgaged land. The second tranche ₹15 crore payable within one year from the acceptance date. The move is part of CDEL's broader strategy to reduce the debt liability of the company, which has faced significant liquidity challenges in recent years.

As of March, the group company had loan dues amounting to ₹1,630 crore and the parent company reported a total default of ₹400 crore on interest and principal repayments.

Business & Beyond

IIM Nagpur, ONGC Green sign MOU for research, policy initiatives

In a nationally significant move aligned with India's clean energy ambitions, the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur and ONGC Green Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on December 20 to collaborate on research, capacity building, and policy-driven initiatives in the field of green and future energy. The MoU was signed on behalf of IIM Nagpur by its Director, Prof Bhimaraya Metri, and on behalf of ONGC Green Limited by its Chief Operating Officer, Harsh Nupur Joshi. Senior faculty members of IIM Nagpur Prof. Alok Kumar Singh, Dean – Executive Education Programmes and Prof. Nikunj Kumar Jain, Chairperson of the Executive MBA in Energy Management, were present.

Union Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal visits NALCO, reviews expansion progress

Piyush Goyal, Secretary of Union Ministry of Mines visited the headquarters of Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Bhubaneswar, today. Goyal planted a sapling, reaffirming the commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable mining practices. During his maiden visit to NALCO headquarters after assuming charge as Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Goyal chaired a review meeting in the presence of Brijendra Pratap Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NALCO. He reviewed the Company's ongoing expansion initiatives and operational performance. Goyal emphasized on the timely completion of expansion projects, achievement of production targets, and systematic enhancement of operational efficiency.

Saleem Ahmad assumes charge of new Chairman and MD of RVNL

Saleem Ahmad assumed charge of new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Navratna Central Govt. PSU under Ministry of Railways. Prior to this posting, Saleem Ahmad was working as Director Project, NBCC (India). He is a Civil Engineer with 33 years of experience in the construction industry. During his career, he has worked as Executive Director/Civil with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. and with the Mumbai Port Trust. Saleem has a vast and varied experience of executing multidimensional large infrastructure projects and has expertise in bridges tunnels, as well as residential and commercial buildings. He has presented papers on sustainable infrastructure and urban mobility at various national and international forums. He was also instrumental in designing and implementing last mile connectivity solutions during his long stint in Delhi Metro.

Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd announces TallyPrime Release 7.0 launch

Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd, India's leading business automation software provider, announced the launch of TallyPrime Release 7.0, marking five years of the TallyPrime platform. TallyPrime has been designed around one clear promise- make digitisation simple, reliable, and truly useful for MSMEs. The milestone release strengthens that mission by bringing together deeper integrations, smarter automation, and meaningful data-protection enhancements into a more cohesive, connected experience. TallyPrime has helped businesses navigate India's fast-evolving digital landscape, from e-invoicing and e-way bills to connected GST compliance.

Signify's Har Gaon Roshan CSR initiative launched in C'garh

In line with its #BrighterLivesBetterWorld vision, Signify, the world leader in lighting, announced the launch of its flagship Har Gaon Roshan CSR initiative in Chhattisgarh. The inauguration was done by Union Home Minister of India Amit Shah. Implemented in partnership with the Chhattisgarh govt and Bharat Cares, this initiative will bring the glow of modern, energy-efficient LED streetlights to 70 villages across the Indravati Tiger Reserve area. Guided by the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this milestone mirrors India's ambition of Viksit Bharat, a developed, empowered nation.

I think where they probably would be disappointed is in the way they have shaped out in Test cricket.

— WV Raman, former India cricketer and coach

PICS: BCCI/ICC/AFP

2025 was filled with white-ball success as Kaur and Co produced the defining moment. On the other hand, men's team had a mixed year in red-ball cricket. **Gomesh S** reviews the journey and what lies ahead...

YEAR OF CROWNS AND FROWNS

IT is that time of the year again. The curtain slowly comes down on 2025 as everyone around the world looks back and reflects, relives and cherishes the year they have had. The highs they have been through and the lows they have bounced back from. For Indian cricket, picking the biggest moment of 2025 isn't that hard — November 2. At the stroke of midnight, 16 women created history. They achieved something no Indian women's team has ever done before. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana, the women in blue beat South Africa to win their first ever ICC World Cup. Five decades worth of heartbreaks, sacrifices came to an end as a nation of billion people erupted in joy celebrating the historic moment.

While the significance of the moment is monumental, one thing that cannot be ignored was their performance on the field — the collective team effort that led to the eventual win. Mandhana and Pratika Rawal did it with the bat, before the latter got injured. Jemimah Rodrigues fought through anxiety and played the knock of her life against Australia in the semifinal. Shafali Verma came in as an injury replacement to win the final for India. There was the omnipresent Deepti Sharma and Amanjot Kaur. Then, the captain Harmanpreet and coach Amol Muzumdar. They all did their part to help achieve the crowning moment of 2025.

Former India women's head coach WV Raman aptly puts it: "I think the biggest highlight of the year has been the women's triumph in the World Cup without a shadow of a doubt and for the simple reason that it's something that they work hard towards." Raman points out that the team has managed to rise above their weaknesses and fear. "In the past, they might have perhaps felt after three consecutive defeats, they might have probably been deflated spirit-wise," he says. "They might have found it difficult to shed it and look ahead and do well to proceed further. But I think that is something that they have done well. Which means that this team has come of age."

The ripple effect is there to see in the accolades and rewards the players are receiving. The BCCI has also significantly increased the domestic match fee for women post the World Cup win. "It's just that they have got to obviously look for more glory. Work towards achieving more. Because that's what they're capable of. And the landscape of women's cricket is such that India is now in a position where it can perhaps be the team to beat like Australia were. I think the next goal that they must be looking at achieving is winning the T20 World Cup (in England)," says Raman.

Mixed season for men

As Harmanpreet and Co prepare for the next T20 World Cup, the year has been one of rollercoasters for the men. They had contrasting fortunes in red and white ball cricket. A year that started with a Test series loss in Australia saw India win the Champions Trophy and the Asia Cup in September. However, it was a mixed year for India in the longest format.

With R Ashwin already retired, India also saw their captain Rohit Sharma hang up his boots and was soon followed by Virat Kohli. Shubman Gill was named the new captain in Tests, and soon in ODIs, replacing Rohit after he had a stellar series in England to level 2-2. The low point, however, came on home soil as India were swept by South Africa — their second such defeat after losing 0-3 against New Zealand last year.

Gill got injured in the first Test and walked off the field to never come back again in the series. India lost on a rank turner before going down again in Guwahati. Questions were raised over coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, but with a T20 World Cup coming up and the fact that India do not play a Test match until August meant there was time to reflect what went wrong.

Raman feels that the losses at home have to be "introspected with caution". He feels India did lose those series but with little red ball cricket in the next few months gives team management time to rethink their strategies. India, he believes, is not a side that deserve to lose so there has to be something that is not working. "It's a side that could have won those Test matches," he says. "So, while we have kept our pride of place in the white-ball format going, I think we probably performed a shade under what we could in Test cricket. Quite obviously, it (time till the next Test) gives the people managing the team enough time and enough room to plan and take the team forward. One year of no Test cricket must be utilised to good effect. It will also mean that they need to try and look at developing a bench strength in bowling."

Focus on pitches, bowlers

The bowling department is one that can be look at and harnessed. Raman has cited the example of recent Vijay Hazare, where tons of runs were scored on flat pitches. "On one hand, it is really good to see batters piling up runs by the tons and records being broken in VH Trophy. But if you step back and look at it in an objective way, it's a clear indication that something needs to be done to develop the bowling standards in India. And also, the kind of tracks that we play on in the white ball domestic cricket as well. I think that's something that we should focus on as we get into the new year."

RoKo know what is expected

While the Test defeats were the lowest point for Indian cricket on the field, the noise off it has been all about Rohit, Kohli and their future. Both play just one format and are keen to continue till the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. However, both head coach and chief selector are non-committal over their future. Since their Test retirement, every match they played has created anticipation, including the ongoing VH Trophy.

While Rohit and Kohli have put it to rest in the Australia and South Africa ODIs, Raman says that the two senior players are responsible enough to know where they stand and what they need to do. "Why are we only focused onthose two guys? They have done extraordinarily well over a long period of time. What we tend to ignore is that they both have been demanding captains during their times. They have guided the team extraordinarily well and they know what it is that they expected out of their team members. Now with the roles being reversed, they know to what extent they have to measure up to be a part of the team. I am sure that you should give them at least that credit."

As India cricket steps into a year filled with opportunities, their main goal would be to win the two T20 World Cups. The first one is for the men, at home with India as co-hosts with Sri Lanka in February. Despite all the buzz around Gill getting dropped, Raman feels India have a side to defend the title.

"Once the team is picked, I think we need to move on and back the side that is being picked. There will be that little bit of pressure as far as the men's T20 World Cup is concerned. But India have got enough riches in that format. The side that is being picked is also a side which is really a very, very formidable side. I will only be surprised if they don't defend the title," he says.

Indian cricket will be hoping the same as well. And with only seven Tests (five men, two women) to play for in 2026, all one can hope for now is that Indian cricket could replicate the white-ball success at the global stage while doing the necessary course correction needed in the longer format.

By this time next year, if they have two ICC titles to show for, India would have had a remarkable 2026.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma after the CT win

Seeking fresh start

With higher stakes and high-quality players, the second season of the Women's Hockey India League starts Sunday. A look at the teams..

Unfinished business

JSW Soorma Hockey Club, runners-up from last season, will be determined to go all the way this season. India great **Savita Punia** in goal, Australian Penny Squibb at the heart of defence, India captain Salima Tete in the middle of the park and prolific goalscorer from Argentina Maria Jose Granatto are few of the names that may make Soorma HC the team to beat.

Attacking firepower

After a poor outing last season, where they finished last with scoring just four goals, Delhi SG Pipers will expect their new signings in attack to improve that. In addition to **Navneet Kaur**, Deepika and Sharmila Devi, the team has Maria Teresa Vianaache of Uruguay who has scored 69 goals in 68 international matches.

New backline for Tigers

Shrachi Bengal Tigers were the most active team in September's mini auction, making big acquisitions of Argentinian Agustina Gorzelany (₹42 lakh), Monika Malik (₹15 lakhs, the most expensive Indian). While they fared well in attack last season, it was their leaky defence that let them down then. With these two new signings, the team management would expect defensive solidity.

Royals bank on home crowd

Newbies Ranchi Royals will bank on local support at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Hockey Stadium, if they stand a chance to go all the way. Local star Sangita Kumari, who was part of the Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning team, will be keenly watched. Otherwise, two Argentine stars Agustina Albetario and Agostina Alonso — both Olympic medal winners — are few other names to look out for.

2 Two of the top teams in the league phase will play each other in the final. Meanwhile, teams will play in a double-round robin format.

Delhi SG Pipers vs Ranchi Royals LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK AND DD SPORTS, 7.30PM

Two-day Tests not good look, say Smith & Stokes

AFP @ Melbourne

BEN Stokes and Steve Smith agreed Saturday a Test match ending in two days was "not want you want", joining some of the biggest names in the game who attacked the state of the Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch.

Twenty wickets tumbled on day one of the fourth Test between Australia and England on Friday, with the hosts dismissed for 152 and the tourists just 110. Another 16 were taken on day two, with the high-profile clash all over within 142 overs inside two days.

"When you go out there and you're faced with those conditions, you've got to crack on and deal with it," said England skipper Stokes after his side won by four wickets to end a 15-year drought on Australian soil. "But being brutally honest, that's not really what you want. You know, Boxing Day Test match, you don't want a game finishing in less than two days. It's not ideal, but you can't change it once you start the game and you've just got to play what's in front of you."

Australian captain Smith said the 10 millimetres depth of grass made it difficult for batting with too much sideways movement off the seam for the bowlers. "It was tricky. No one could really get in. I think when you see 36 wickets across two days, that's probably too much," he said.

Brief scores: Australia 152 & 132 in 34.3 ovs (Travis Head 46; Brydon Carse 4/34) lost to England 110 & 178/6 in 32.2 ovs (Jacob Bethell 40, Zak Crawley 37; Jhye Richardson 2/22)

England batters Jamie Smith and Harry Brook celebrate the win on Day 2 | AP

1912 The last time there had been multiple two-day Tests in the same series was in 1912

5468 No. of days between England's previous win in Australia and their victory at the MCG on Saturday

EXPRESS READ

Gukesh stays in hunt, Carlsen suffers defeat

DOHA: India's chess ace D Gukesh remained among the frontrunners after nine rounds of the FIDE World Rapid Championships. Gukesh was joint seventh on 6.5 points with 12 others. Russian GM Vladislav Artemiev, on 7.5 points, emerged as the joint leader after inflicting a rare defeat on World No 1 Magnus Carlsen (7 points).

Tilottama bags women's 50m rifle 3P gold medal

BHOPAL: Tilottama Sen produced a composed performance to win the gold medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the 68th national shooting championships here, finishing on top with 466.9. Vidarsa K Vinod secured the silver with 462.9 while Ayonika Paul completed the podium after scoring 451.8.

SA20: Super Kings and Sunrisers register wins

CENTURION: Left-arm pacer Duan Jansen, the more-known Marco's twin brother, picked up 4/23 as Joburg Super Kings beat Pretoria Capitals by 22 runs in the SA20 in Centurion on Saturday. Meanwhile, Paarl Royals were bundled out for 49 in chase of 187 vs Sunrisers Eastern Cape with Anrich Nortje taking 4/13 at Paarl.

Pipers keeper Bansari ready to soar: Coach

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

YOUNG Indian goalkeeper Bansari Solanki will be one of the promising talents to keep a close eye on when the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) kicks off on Sunday. From having to play with local kits in Surat to being part of the senior's women's team this year, her journey has witnessed some big names act as guiding forces in shaping her game. Growing up in Gujarat — which is less known for hockey — she stumbled into the sport when she was class eight. She is now part of the Indian team setup and is learning from the game's best.

Retained by the Delhi SG Pipers for the second season of the Women's HIL, the talented Solanki is considered one for the future. It has to be noted that Solanki has played mostly in the 5s format, the shorter format of the game. Former India women's team goalkeeper and SG Pipers assistant coach Helena Mary felt she is in a good environment to prosper. "We got a world-best goalkeeper in Cristy (Cristina Cosentino). So she is patching up (to the longer format) and she is doing really well," she said in a virtual interaction. "We don't have to do much with her. The goalkeepers always move like vines when they grow. I can see her in two, three years she will be the first team goalkeeper," she added.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Morocco forced to wait after draw against Mali

AGENCIES @ Rabat

MOROCCO missed the chance to guarantee their spot in the last 16 of the Africa Cup of Nations after Lassine Sinayoko's second-half penalty earned Mali a 1-1 draw with the hosts on Friday. The match was a tale of two spot-kicks, with Brahim Diaz giving Morocco the lead from a penalty deep in first-half injury time and Sinayoko replying on 64 minutes.

The stalemate at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium in the capital Rabat ended Morocco's world record winning run which had been taken to 19 matches with their 2-0 victory over Comoros in the tournament's opening game.

It also means Morocco have not yet confirmed their place in the knockout phase, although they are on top of Group A with four points from two games.

Mali come next on two points alongside Zambia, who drew 0-0 with minnows Comoros earlier in Casablanca.

On Saturday, Sadio Mane's equaliser earned 2022 champions Senegal a 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo in their heavyweight clash.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal, Man City register victories

AGENCIES @ London

ARSENAL responded to the pressure applied by Manchester City by beating Brighton 2-1 to retake top spot in the Premier League after Rayan Cherki inspired Pep Guardiola's side to victory at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

The Gunners made light of those absences as Martin Odegaard put them ahead in the first half before Georginio Rutter's second-half own goal increased the lead.

Diego Gomez got one back for Brighton but Arsenal held on for a third successive league victory. Arsenal sit two points clear of second-placed City.

Manchester City's Rayan Cherki (R) celebrates after scoring on Saturday | AFP

Wirtz breaks goal drought

Florian Wirtz finally struck for the first time since his £100 million ($135 million) move from Bayer Leverkusen in Liverpool's 2-1 victory against Wolves. Ryan Gravenberch slammed home the opening goal. The Reds are now unbeaten in seven games but were still far from convincing against a Wolves side without a league win all season. Santiago Bueno pulled a goal back for the visitors, who remain on just two points from 18 games. Meanwhile, Kevin Schade scored perfect hat-trick to put Brentford in the top-10 of the table.

RESULTS: Forest 1-2 Manchester City; Arsenal 2-1 Brighton, Brentford 4-1 Bournemouth; Burnley 0-0 Everton; Liverpool 2-1 Wolves; West Ham 0-1 Fulham.

Chance for SL to bounce back

Having already lost the series, can Chamari Athapaththu and Co make a mark in fourth T20I vs India. A look...

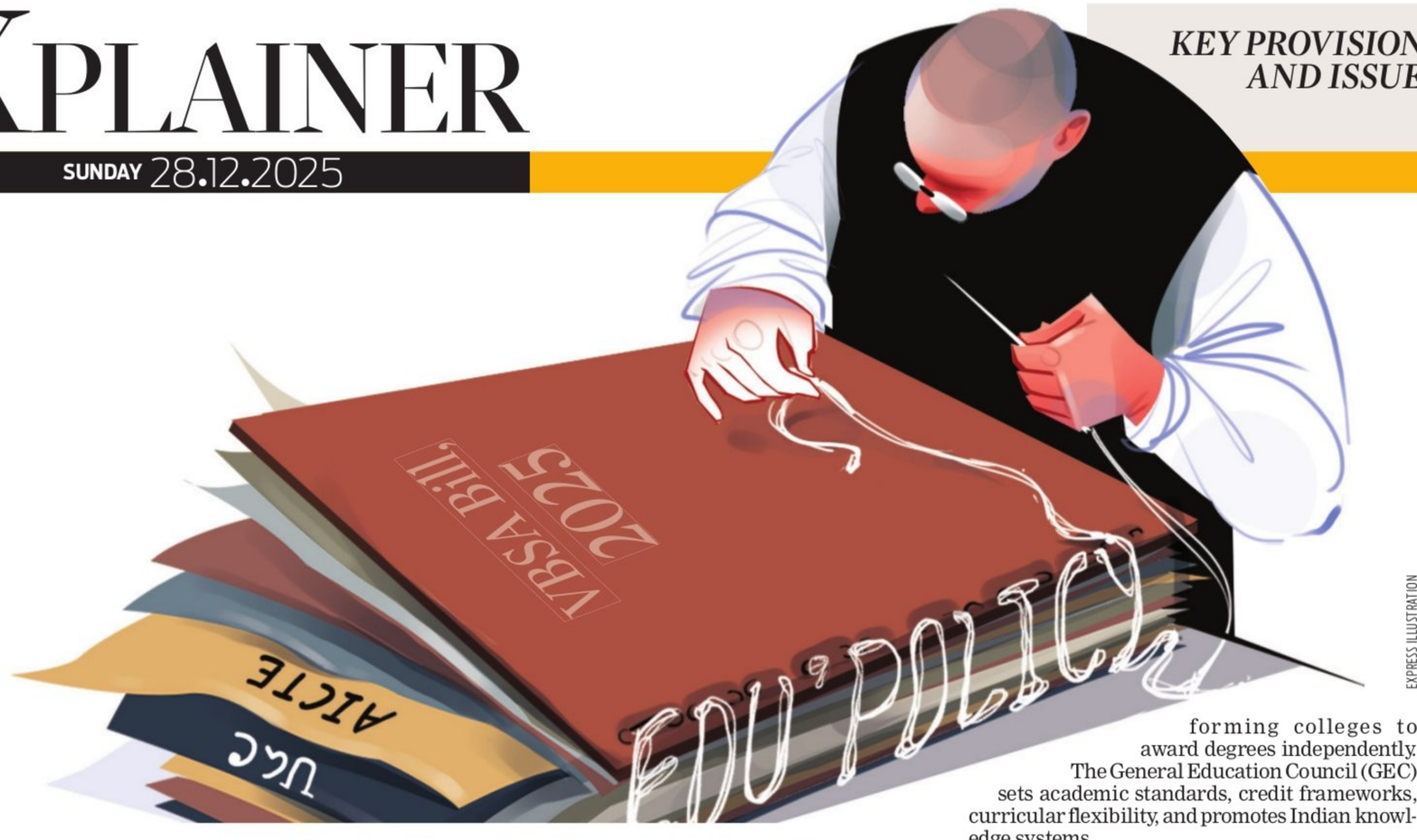
WILL INDIA BAT FIRST?

While head coach Amol Muzumdar has repeatedly said that they want to play according to conditions at some point India will want to challenge themselves. Batting second has made things easier so far and the hosts will want to put themselves in different situations and see how they fare. One such aspect will be batting first.

EYES ON CHAMARI

For the longest time Athapaththu has carried the team on her shoulders. While the next generation has come up, they do not have the fire power to carry the innings forward. Sri Lanka desperately looks to their skipper for inspiration as they need Chamari to come to the party and elevate their performance.

India vs Sri Lanka, Thiruvananthapuram ● Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7PM



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

RESHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE VIA VBSA BILL

Part of the long arc of reform amid shrinking public support

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

THE Union government's introduction of the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025 has once again brought the governance of higher education into sharp public focus. Introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 15, the bill constitutes the most far-reaching legislative intervention in the sector since the establishment of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 1956. Presented as a reform aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat', the bill proposes a sweeping overhaul of regulatory, accreditation, and standard-setting mechanisms governing universities and colleges across the country.

Substantively, the VBSA Bill revives the long-contested Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) framework first proposed in 2018 and withdrawn following widespread opposition from academics, student organisations, and several state governments. While the revised moniker and official narrative emphasise trust-based governance, simplification, and institutional autonomy, the underlying architecture closely resembles earlier proposals aimed at centralising regulatory authority. The bill must therefore be read not in isolation, but as part of a long arc of policy reform in Indian higher education, marked by gradual centralisation, expanding managerial oversight, and declining public investment.

A brief history of public universities

In the decades following Independence, Indian higher education was shaped by a broadly shared developmental vision. The University Education Commission (1948–49) led by S Radhakrishnan articulated a concept of universities as autonomous public institutions devoted to liberal education, critical inquiry and research. This vision was institutionalised with the creation of the UGC in 1956, which combined regulatory authority with statutory responsibility for funding universities and supporting faculty development.

This consensus epitomised with the Kothari Commission (1964–66), which explicitly linked higher education to nation-building, social equity, and scientific advancement, and stressed sustained public investment. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1968 broadly reflected this approach, reaffirming the role of the state as the primary guarantor of access and quality in higher education. The erosion of this model began gradually in the mid-1980s. The NPE 1986, revised in 1992, introduced the language of efficiency, select autonomy, and diversification, alongside the expansion of distance education and self-financing programmes. The establishment of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 1994 marked a decisive shift towards performance metrics, documentation-based evaluation, and managerial oversight.

A more explicit ideological turn occurred at the turn of the millennium with the Birla–Ambani Report, formally titled *A Policy Framework for Reforms in Education* (2000), introduced under the Vajpayee-led NDA government. The report advocated treating education as an industry, encouraged large-scale private and corporate entry, and argued for a reduced role of the state in direct provision. It triggered widespread opposition from academics, students, and state governments, who viewed it as a blueprint for commercialisation and exclusion. Although never formally implemented and effectively shelved after the change of government in 2004, its policy logic proved durable.

That logic resurfaced through the National Knowledge Commission (2005–09), which promoted rapid expansion, interdisciplinarity, private participation, and foreign universities as solutions to capacity constraints. Under UPA-II, this momentum found legislative expression in the five higher education bills introduced by Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal between 2009 and 2012. These included proposals for a single overarching regulator, mandatory accreditation, regulated entry of foreign universities, educational tribunals, and measures to curb unfair practices in private institutions. While framed as reformist and consumer-friendly, the package combined regulatory centralisation with limited market opening and faced strong resistance over autonomy, federalism and academic freedom. They ultimately lapsed, even as the Yash Pal Committee (2009) warned against excessive fragmentation, over-regulation, and the erosion of the idea of the university.

Expansion without consolidation

Over this entire period, Indian higher education expanded at an extraordinary scale. From fewer than 30 universities in 1947, the system today comprises more than a thousand universities and tens of thousands of colleges, enrolling over four crore students. Yet, expansion has rarely been matched by consolidation of academic capacity. Chronic underfunding, faculty shortages, regional imbalances, and uneven quality have persisted. Regulatory bodies such as the UGC, AICTE, and NCTE emerged incrementally to address sector-specific needs, but over time this fragmented regulatory structure became a target of criticism for bureaucratic overlap, procedural delays, and inconsistent enforcement.

From the 1990s, these structural weaknesses were compounded by a gradual retreat of the state from direct public funding. The growth of private institutions, especially in technical and professional education, filled some gaps but also intensified stratification and student indebtedness. Governance reform increasingly substituted for sustained public investment, a pattern that forms the backdrop to the VBSA Bill.

NEP 2020 and reform

Over the past decade, higher education reform has followed a consistent policy direction: regulatory consolidation, outcome-based evaluation, and performance-linked autonomy. The NEP 2020 codified this approach, advocating multidisciplinary universities, flexible degree pathways, the dismantling of the college affiliation system, and a shift from input-based regulation to outcome-focused quality assurance.

Policy instruments introduced since then include the four-year undergraduate programme, the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for central universities, academic credit transfer platforms, and expanded reliance on accreditation and rankings. Supporters argue these measures enhance efficiency, transparency, and global competitiveness. Critics, however, point to repeated disruptions of academic calendars, rising student costs, excessive compliance burdens, and the weakening of research ecosystems.

Universities have been required to absorb these reforms amid shrinking real-term funding, increasing contractualisation of faculty, and growing pressure to generate internal revenue. The VBSA Bill enters this already strained institutional environment, promising coherence and autonomy while deepening several of these trends.

From UGC to VBSA

At the core of the VBSA Bill is the repeal of three foundational statutes: the UGC Act, 1956; the AICTE Act, 1987; and the NCTE Act, 1993. In their place, the bill establishes the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan as a single apex body overseeing higher education, excluding medical and legal education. VBSA is structured around three councils. The Higher Education Regulation Council (HERC) is responsible for governance norms, transparency requirements, and enforcement, with powers to impose penalties of up to ₹75 lakh and, in extreme cases, suspend operations or recommend closure. The National Accreditation Council (NAC) licenses third-party accreditation agencies and may allow high-performing colleges to award degrees independently. The General Education Council (GEC) sets academic standards, credit frameworks, curricular flexibility, and promotes Indian knowledge systems.

The government presents this separation of functions as a corrective to regulatory overlap and a move towards trust-based governance. Advisory roles for state representatives are cited as safeguards for federal balance. Critics, however, argue that substantive authority remains concentrated at the Centre.

Funding sans statute

The most consequential shift is the complete delinking of regulation from funding. Unlike the UGC, which combined oversight with statutory responsibility for grants and fellowships, VBSA has no direct funding mandate. Public funding is to be channelled through ministerial schemes and a proposed VBSA Fund, subject to executive discretion. This marks a change in the political economy. When funding ceases to be a statutory entitlement, universities become dependent on annual budgetary priorities, competitive schemes, and internal revenue generation. This undermines long-term academic planning and disproportionately affects research-intensive and regionally located public universities. Public funding is thus transformed from a guaranteed commitment into an administrative instrument, reinforcing a model in which institutions rely on fees, loans, and private partnerships. Universities serving first-gen learners and marginalised communities are likely to bear the greatest costs.

Centralisation and federalism

Although education is on the Concurrent List, the VBSA Bill centralises authority in ways that have revived federal concerns. The Centre retains powers to issue binding policy directions, supersede the Commission, and control appellate mechanisms. Several state governments and opposition parties argue that these provisions undermine democratic accountability and state autonomy, prompting the bill's referral to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Uniform national standards, critics contend, risk functioning as instruments of exclusion in resource-poor states where institutions lack the capacity to meet accreditation benchmarks without additional support.

The bill's emphasis on compulsory accreditation and penalties has drawn particular scrutiny. The compliance regime risks intensifying documentation-driven governance in a sector already burdened by reporting requirements. Experience with rankings and accreditation suggests that metric optimisation often displaces substantive teaching and research, while faculty time is diverted towards compliance work.

There are also concerns about academic freedom. When institutions depends on meeting narrowly defined indicators, universities may avoid critical research agendas, controversial scholarship, or socially engaged teaching that does not translate easily into quantifiable outcomes.

KEY PROVISIONS AND ISSUES

RESTRUCTURING
1. The bill repeals the UGC, AICTE and NCTE Acts and replaces them with a single apex body, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan. Higher education is reorganised into three councils covering regulation, accreditation and academic standards, excluding medical and legal education

SEPARATION OF FUNDING
2. VBSA has no statutory authority to allocate public funds, fellowships or grants. Funding is routed through the Ministry of Education and a proposed VBSA Fund, marking a shift from statutory entitlement to executive discretion

REGULATORY POWERS
3. The regulatory council is empowered to impose penalties up to ₹75 lakh, suspend degree-granting powers or recommend closure of institutions, introducing a strong compliance-driven governance regime

ACCREDITATION
4. Accreditation becomes mandatory for all institutions. High-performing colleges may be allowed to grant degrees independently, while institutional autonomy is made conditional on accreditation scores and performance metrics

ACADEMIC STANDARDS
5. The standards council promotes flexible curricula, credit mobility, multidisciplinary education, inclusion of Bharatiya knowledge systems. Reduced reliance on uniform syllabi

FEDERAL BALANCE
6. Despite education on the Concurrent List, states have limited role in VBSA's governance. The Centre retains overriding policy, supervisory and appellate powers, raising concerns over erosion of federal autonomy

CENTRALISATION
7. The bill allows the Union government to issue binding policy directions and, under specified conditions, supersede the Commission, reinforcing executive control over higher education governance

ORIENTATION
8. By delinking funding from regulation and encouraging institutional self-financing, the bill risks accelerating privatisation and widening disparities between well-resourced institutions and PUs serving marginalised regions

ACADEMIC LABOUR
9. Expanded compliance requirements and outcome-based evaluation may increase administrative burdens on teachers, constrain academic freedom and reinforce contractualisation trends in faculty employment

POLITICAL ECONOMY
10. The bill advances governance restructuring in a context of stagnant or declining public investment in higher education, raising questions about whether regulatory reform is substituting for the state's funding responsibility. The VBSA Bill poses a fundamental question: can centralised, performance-driven regulation improve higher education without renewed public investment?

PUTTING DATA QUALITY ON A MORE CREDIBLE BASE

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA received a Grade C—for the second consecutive year—on the quality of its national accounts and government finance data. Grade C indicates that the data shared with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance". In effect, persistent weaknesses in key statistical areas make it difficult for the IMF, economists, investors and policymakers to obtain a fully accurate and timely picture of the Indian economy.

The IMF's assessment broadly echoes concerns long flagged by economists and analysts in India.

The primary issues relate to national accounts data — especially GDP and gross national income — stemming from an outdated base year and shortcomings in the deflation methodology. India continues to use 2011–12 as the base year for calculating real GDP. Experts argue that for a rapidly evolving economy like India's, a decade-old base year fails to reflect structural shifts. The IMF and others have noted that relying on outdated relative prices and sectoral weights can misstate growth, particularly by undercapturing emerging sectors such as digital services.

Responding to these concerns, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran told this newspaper recently that the issues flagged by the IMF — including base-year revision and the use of a single deflator — are well recognised and are being actively addressed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), with improvements planned by 2026. He added that these methodological limitations could just as easily understate GDP as overstate it.

Acknowledging these gaps, the government's statistical arm — the National Statistical Office (NSO) — has for the past few years been working not only to revise the base year for GDP and the Consumer Price Index (CPI), but also to expand and deepen data sources to better capture the economy's evolving structure.

Rebasing GDP

From next year, the government will shift the GDP base year to 2022–23 from the current 2011–12. This will mark India's first GDP rebasing exercise in over a decade — the previous revision was carried out in January 2015, when the base year was changed from 2004–05 to 2011–12.

The revision has been recommended by the Advisory Committee on National Account Statistics (ACNAS). The new GDP series is intended to capture structural changes in the economy, incorporate improved and newer data sources, and align estimates with updated methodological standards. The first GDP estimates under the new series are scheduled to be released on February 27, 2026.

"2022–23 is a natural choice for the GDP base year, as the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and the Household Consumption Survey were conducted during that year," former Secretary, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Dr Sourabh Garg had told this newspaper earlier.

BEFORE THE ARBITRATOR
UNDER SEC. 84 OF THE MULTI STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT 2002
A.R.C. No.487/2025
The Repatriates Cooperative Finance & Development Bank Ltd., called as 'REPCO BANK', ...Petitioner
- Vs -
1. Sri. A Thirugnanam, S/o. Arunachalam,
2. Smt. R. Janaki, W/o. A. Thirugnanam,
3. Sri. T. Velu Kumar, S/o. A. Thirugnanam,
4. Sri. T. Anand Kumar, S/o. A. Thirugnanam, **All are residing at:** No. 107, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Saraswathipuram, Halasuru, Bangalore - 560 008.
5. Sri. G. Rufus Maria Bounoparte, S/o. George Karunakaran, No. 100/1, G. No. 8th Street, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Saraswathipuram, Bangalore - 560 008. ... Respondents

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION
To
1. Sri. A Thirugnanam, S/o. Arunachalam,
2. Smt. R. Janaki, W/o. A. Thirugnanam,
3. Sri. T. Velu Kumar, S/o. A. Thirugnanam,
4. Sri. T. Anand Kumar, S/o. A. Thirugnanam, **All are residing at:** No. 107, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Saraswathipuram, Halasuru, Bangalore - 560 008.
5. Sri. G. Rufus Maria Bounoparte, S/o. George Karunakaran, No. 100/1, G. No. 8th Street, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Saraswathipuram, Bangalore - 560 008.

Whereas the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd., called as 'REPCO BANK' has filed a Claim Petition in A.R.C. No.487/2025 against you, the Respondents for recovery of the Claim amount of Rs.9,28,579/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Nine Only) as on 31.07.2025 along with further interest thereon.
You, the Respondents were summoned and directed to appear on various dates i.e. on 20.09.2025, 18.10.2025 & 06.12.2025 and to show cause as to why the Claim should not be allowed and to answer all material questions relating to the Claim Petition. Either, the said notices were returned without being served or in spite of receipt of the notices sent by registered post, you failed to appear before me to answer the claim of the petitioner.
You are therefore directed to appear on **03rd day of January 2026 at 10.30 a.m. at ARBITRATION CENTRE, III Floor, No. 55, IV Main Road, (Ramachandra Aathithanar Street), Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020** as the date fixed for hearing of the Claim Petition; in order to support your proposed stand.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the above said Hearing date, this ARC claim will be heard and decided in accordance to law and Award will be passed on merits.
Given under my hand and seal of this office on this the 06th day of December 2025.
(S. SETHURAMAN)
Signature of the Arbitrator

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LOST & FOUND
I, Mr. Anil Kumar Son of Late Rajagopal have lost my originals sale deed's documents situated in erstwhile Nayanappasettypalya, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk now at 1st Cross, 4th Main, near Vibgyor school, N S Palya, Abayappa Layout, Kuvempu Nagar, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, B G Road, Bangalore-560076, 1) Doc No.2859/1982-83, of Book-1, Volume 704, at Pages 164 to 167, Dated 18-11-1982 & 2) No.3883/1989-90 of Book-1, Volume 3179 at Pages 16 to 19 Dated 10-08-1989, registered in the office of the Sub registrar Bangalore South Taluk, while some work in xerox shop at BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Case registrar serial No.1961784/2025, lost report No.1961784/2025, Dated 17-12-2025 & Case registrar serial No.1965349, lost report No.1965349/2025, Dated 19-12-2025, finder please contact or return to this address. Mr. Anil Kumar No.6/1, 1st Cross, 4th Main, near Vibgyor school, N S Palya, Abayappa Layout, Kuvempu Nagar, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, B G Road, Bangalore-560076, Mobile No.9113516144

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/31 Dt: 23.12.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
[i]OHE modification	Rs. 1,67,87,839.90/-

required for Construction of Track Machine siding at Chikkabanavara, Yediyuru, Shravanabelagola, Nelamangala station length of 420m [ii] OHE modification in connection with the proposed extension of platform BG Nagar PF-1&2 by 16 mtr, Hirisave, PF-1, 2&3 by 20 mtr, Shravanabelagola, PF-1, PF-2&3 by 138m each, Channarayapatna PF-1, 2&3 by 140 mtr and compound wall at Channarayapattana station in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal subdivision. [iii] Pending works after electrification of Chikkabanavara-Hassan (Gr296) sections of Bengaluru division. [iv] TRD works in connection with Engineering track works in Chikkabanavara-Hassan Section. [v] OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of RUB (RCC Box size-15x4.5m) at km 14/300-400 at Nelamangala station".
Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 13.01.2026**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
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Must. Salary 25k To 30k.
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